Big Fish Lake Association Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 2, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Cold Spring, MN

In attendance: Kit Ferber, Chris Wenner, Mark Backes, Allen Schmitz, Matt Peters, Nina Steil, Paul Steil, Joel Meyer

1. Call to order – 6:33 p.m.
2. Treasurer’s Report – Matt Peters
   1. Matt discussed the $5,000.00 given to the BFLA as a donation given to us by the Collegeville Township Hall to help fight Aquatic Invasive Species.
      1. Mark Backes made a motion to use this donation for boat inspections as the Township intended. Chris Wenner seconded the motion. All were in favor.
   2. Board also discussed an additional $500.00 that was donated which will also be put towards boat inspections.
   3. Board discussed how much is needed for boat inspections this season. It was determined that approximately $30,000.00 is needed. Presently we have been granted approximately $15,000 from the Stearns County AIS Committee and the other half needed to matched by the BFLA. There will not be a grant available from the DNR this season.
   4. Matt stated that all bills were paid, and handed out a spreadsheet with all of the financial information.
3. Campaign Brochures for the Legacy Fund
   1. Nina has been working with Rengel Printing designing a brochure that will be used for the campaign for the Legacy Fund. Board discussed that we would print 1000 copies.
   2. Name is changing from Conservancy Fund to Legacy Fund.
   3. Board discussed using the money collected for the Legacy Fund, first for a “war chest” of up to $100,000 in case something catastrophic happens with an AIS contaminating Big Fish Lake and we would need to act quickly. Then, the rest of the money donated will go into an endowment fund where principal cannot be touched. Paul Steil also discussed how persons over 70-1/2 years of age could make a charitable donation of up to $100,000 for a year by rolling over part of their IRA or something of that sort.
   4. Sub-Committees reported. Working to help with the Legacy Fund Campaign.
4. Boat Inspections for 2018 - Kit
   1. Kit reported that Jim Sand will stay on as a “liaison” for the boat inspectors between Stearns County and the BFLA. Also, Deb & Bob Killmer agreed to be liaisons for the BFLA and the boat inspectors. The Killmer’s will double check with the boat inspectors, see if there are any problems, etc. Inspectors come from an organization called LAMB. These boat inspectors will be at the landing starting May 9, 2018 to inspect before a fishing tournament on Big Fish Lake.
5. Board Member Updates
   1. Kit will stay on as President. Doug will also stay on, Bill, and Joel will also stay on, but would step aside if someone else wants the position.
   2. BFLA Board members have a 2-year commitment. Any recommendations for Board Members please contact Kit.
6. Membership Report
   1. Kit reported that we have 236 potential members on the BFLA spreadsheet.
   2. 192 secondary owners, 10 business owners, and the rest are secondary owners, renters, friends or occupants. There are 98 year round homes which is up from 75 homes in 2000.
7. Score Your Shore
   1. www.dnr.state.mn.us.scoreyourshore is a DNR website to check for phosphorus run-off on your shore. Allen Schmitz offered to do some research on this website and report back.
8. Signs for around the Lake
   1. Signs were created that support the “Clean, Drain, and Dry” initiative to help keep our lake free of AIS. The best practice for managing AIS is to start with the boats that are coming into Big Fish Lake.
9. Alleyway Update
   1. Nikki from DNR came out to Big Fish Lake to see a new wall that replaced an old one at the Schramels and then had some advice for the wetland next to their home such as installing coconut logs, possibly raising the standpipe and having a third party test the water around the wetland.
10. Hamann’s Conservation Reserve Program
    1. This program keeps native grasses around Big Fish Lake. This program will be in effect for two more years. Allen Schmitz will readdress this CRP to gather more information on what the next step would be to hopefully keep this program in place.
11. CD3 Cleaning Stations
    1. 10 machines are in the process of being made to be used around the State of Minnesota. This machine is still in the testing stages. It is very costly; approximately $30,000 to have a station at the landing. It also requires electricity, running water and insurance which our access does not have.
12. Stearns County COLA meeting
    1. If you are in need of a rain garden (a buffer of native vegetation) this company will help. COLA has a questionnaire that we as board members should send back to Kit. She, in turn, will give ideas to Greg from the Soil and Watershed District since he is in charge of this project.
    2. Jim and Kit will look into some areas on the lake that could possibly use rain gardens.
13. Dock & Lift Installation
    1. We need to be careful we are not using a dock & lift installation person who has been to an infested lake, and may have AIS on their equipment or clothes. Board discussed perhaps Big Fish Lake residents who need this service, only use one installer (and not multiple). Perhaps referring residents to this person for their needs.
14. Big Fish Lake Picnic

a. Picnic is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, 2018 at Hidden Cove Orchard. More

details to follow.

1. Upcoming Meetings
   1. Wednesday, May 30th - 6:30 p.m. Kit’s house (regular Board meeting)
   2. Tuesday, June 5th - 6:30 p.m. Kit’s house (Legacy Fund Campaign)
   3. Saturday, June 9th - 8:30 am – Annual Meeting the Collegeville Hall
2. Adjourn
   1. Matt Peters made a motion to adjourn. Allen Schmitz seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes were written by Secretary Nina Steil