Big Fish Lake Association Board Meeting

May 30, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Kit Ferber’s House, Big Fish Lake

In attendance: Jim Sand, Kit Ferber, Mark Backes, Doug Adamek, Bill Unger, Matt Peters, Josh Hirschfeld, Allen Schmitz, Joel Meyer, Paul Steil, Nina Steil

1. Call to order (6:30 p.m.)
   * Kit will make a few minor edits/changes to Board meeting minutes from 4/18/18. Additional wording is needed to clarify the board’s discussion of the Alleyway. The minutes from 5/2/18 minutes were approved via email.
2. Treasurer’s Report – Matt Peters
   * Matt reported finances for the BFLA including expenses, total income, and the current balance. Matt (with Paul Steil’s assistance) will work to clean up the spreadsheet – perhaps using the program Quicken or Quick Books to organize the data to present at the June 9th Big Fish Lake Association meeting. Kit will also purchase one of these programs. Some additional expenses we will have this year will be the video for the Legacy Fund Campaign, and some other AIS detecting items. Board also discussed using the President’s “Discretionary Fund” or the Board Conferences Budget to pay for the AIS training for John Ronning. A huge thank you to John for volunteering to do this for us!
   * Jim Sand made a motion to use the funds from the Board Conferences Budget to pay for AIS training. Mark Backes seconded the motion. All were in favor.
3. Fishing Tournaments on Big Fish
   * Kit found out that currently there are no other fishing tournaments or league fishing scheduled on Big Fish Lake. There was a fishing tournament in May – and subsequently boat inspections at the landing were done. Board discussed announcing at the Big Fish Lake Association meeting that anyone who knows of any tournaments or leagues should let Kit know.
4. Clean, Drain, Dry signage
   * All of the “Clean, Drain, Dry” signs have been given out. A lot of them are in great spots where people with boats are sure to see them. There is a billboard on I-94 as well. This can only help with the prevention of AIS.
5. Score Your Shore – Allen Schmitz
   * Allen looked into the website of “Score Your Shore” and discovered that it is a worksheet and self-assessment that has the user enter information regarding their lake property vegetation, and calculates a score (giving points). Great tool for determining if your lake property has an appropriate amount of natural grasses, etc. Board discussed that we have the website information available at the Big Fish Lake meeting.
6. Hamann’s CRP Update – Allen Schmitz
   * Allen will contact the Hamann family who so generously put their farmland into the Conservation Reserve Program eight years ago. There are two years left of this program so Allen will follow through with what we have to do to possibly continue this CRP if we can.
7. Alleyway
   * At this time there is no update on the Alleyway and there is no action required at this time.
8. COLA Meeting & Questionnaire
   * Board will talk about highlights from this meeting at the Annual Big Fish Lake meeting on June 9th. Greg Berg will be giving us a presentation on ways to improve our shorelines to do what is best for our lake at meeting. Perhaps someone will step forward and want to use this program of creating rain gardens on their property. Big Fish Lake Board discussed perhaps giving an incentive to anyone who uses this program. The BFLA Board has done this in the past.
9. Proposed Dock & Lift installation Service – Kit Ferber
   * Board had discussed the idea of having ONE dock and lift vendor who would service Big Fish Lake property owners in putting in their docks and boat lifts in the spring. This would help to ensure that AIS from other lakes that might be on equipment and clothing would not contaminate Big Fish Lake. Board had the discussion that most dock & lift service companies are aware of this, and are supposed to decontaminate their equipment or use clean, drained and dried equipment if they have been in a contaminated lake. Board also discussed asking the guests for a show of hands at the Annual Big Fish Lake meeting on June 9th to see who they use for dock and lift installation, and if they are using a company that is AIS free. Board also discussed the fact that In Tune Marine has an AIS decontamination at their shop. Jim Sand will speak with Kyle at In Tune about their decontamination unit. Side note: Jim did talk to Kyle and he does NOT have a decontamination unit at his shop that follows DNR protocol such as using 140 degree water temperature. Also, if you do want your boat cleaned at In Tune Marine, there is a charge! On the other hand, there is no charge to get your boat decontaminated through Stearns County who travels around county lakes.
10. Possible agenda topics for Big Fish Lake Annual Meeting
    1. Present “Score Your Shore” website info
    2. Greg Berg from COLA will speak (30 minutes with a 15 question & answer period.)
    3. Treasurer’s Report/Finances
    4. Discuss importance of Dock & Lift service companies being safe from AIS
    5. Discuss “Clean, Drain & Dry” signs and how long it takes AIS to dry in order for your boat to be safe on the water (at least 5 days)
    6. Elections: Jim Sand stepping down, Josh Hirschfeld will volunteer to take Jim’s place. Doug, Bill, and Kit are staying on. Joel Meyer will be stepping down, and Megan Johnson would like to be on the Board. Elections of the new members will be done.
    7. Loon Updates: three sets of loons enjoying their nests. New nests have a proven program behind them of keeping loon nests safe.
    8. Big Fish Lake Social
    9. Sub Committee report on water quality/testing
11. Legacy Fund Campaign – Josh Hirschfeld
    * Josh spoke about some ideas for the Legacy Fund Campaign. He spoke about creating a professional video to use as a tool for presenting the campaign information to potential donors. Cost would be an estimated $3000 to create video. Josh also discussed ideas of some potential donors, as well as different donation level ideas for mailings, or presentations. Board discussed taking more time to create this video, and change the brochure to match the video. Video director would need a down payment of $1500 to start working on the video.
    * Joel Meyer made a motion to approve the creation of this campaign video and invest $1500-$3000. Matt Peters seconded the motion. All were in favor.
    * Board discussed sub-committees for Legacy Fund Campaign: Jim Sand will work on getting a price from PLM in case we do have an infestation, Doug & Paul will work on tax info data, Nina and Kit will work on script for video (along with Board).
12. Adjourn (8:47 pm)
    * Matt Peters made a motion to adjourn. Allen Schmitz seconded. All were in favor.
13. Next Meeting: Saturday, June 9th Annual Big Fish Lake Meeting, Township Hall in Cold Spring, 8:30 a.m. (Future board meetings TBA).

Minutes written by Secretary Nina Steil.