**Big Fish Lake Association October Board Meeting**

**October 18, 2023; 6:00 pm at Mark’s home**

In attendance: Mark Backes, Megan Johnson, Doug Adamek, Matt Peters, John Ronning, Kit Ferber, Allen Schmitz, and Nancy Van Erp

1. Call to order (6:03 p.m.)
2. Finance Report – Matt

* Current total $67,480.89; plus $250 from a recent deposit.
* Matt will check on CD interest rates at Granite Bank for both 6 and 12/13 month CDs.
* Current totals for the Legacy Funds have gone slightly down with $155,000 in the Emergency Fund and $153,000 in the Legacy Fund.
* There were 44 boat inspection hours this year in which our portion of 22 hours will be reimbursed due to staffing shortages.

1. Membership Drive update – Kit

* BFLA has currently raised $40,878.80 from homeowner dues – the most we have ever raised. The association has also received $3500 from a Collegeville Township grant and $2650 from business memberships.
* The next membership drive will begin next month with letters and membership invoices mailed to members.

1. Water testing

Matt took the following secchi disk readings throughout the summer to measure water clarity on the lake:

June 7, 20 feet

July 11, 17 feet

July 24, 19.6 feet

October 2, 16 feet

1. Outlet Update

Allen is working on contracting bids and permits for the project of cleaning the lake’s outlet. Sand and other vegetation has filled in the outlet road since the last excavation in 1984. If it is not periodically cleaned out it cannot drain and could lead to higher lake water levels. The excavation needs to happen during a drought when it is dry and during the winter months. The ballpark estimate for the project is $13,000.

1. Social events

* Gary and Dave are willing to continue to host the annual picnic at Hidden Cove Orchard.
* The Board discussed adding more family history stories from the lake at the annual meeting and on the website.

1. AIS Update

* Clearwater Lake now has starry stonewort. Steve McComas from Blue Water Science found the AIS during his inspection and thinks they have had it for more than two years. It’s possible that it spread from boat anchors since it was found away from the boat access.
* The board discussed having a list of action items if starry stonewort is found on BFL. Steve could possibly add the list to the annual inspection report he prepares for the lake.
* The board also discussed constructing and putting out “Aquatic Plant Area” signs/floats to protect sensitive fish and wildlife areas around the lake. Many years ago the lake had DNR signs for fish spawning areas. The Board will continue to discuss this topic next month.

1. Newsletter update

Mark will send a membship newsletter update this week with the following updates:

* Lake apparel store closing this Sunday
* Winterpalooza event will be held on the ice on February 24
* A link to the WCCO story on AIS and lake associations
* AED near the boat access will be installed in a couple weeks and a 2nd AED will be added near Teresia Terrace.

1. Lake Maps – Kit

Kit is working on maps of the lake with homeowner information listed. The maps can be printed and laminated for around $12 each, but the printer would like an order of at least 100. Kit will add a map payment question to the upcoming membership invoice letters. The Board intends to vote on allocating funds for this project through an email vote as the costs are finalized.

1. Adjourn (7:43 p.m.)