**Big Fish Lake Association January Board Meeting**

**January 24, 2024; 6:00 pm at Mark’s home**

In attendance: Mark Backes, John Ronning, Kit Ferber, Hailey Bayer, Matt Peters, Megan Johnson, and Allen Schmitz

1. Call to order (6:00 p.m.)
2. Finance Report

* Current BFL account balance: $77,192.32
* Mark and Matt set up a 6-month CD at Granite Bank for $20,000 at 5% interest. The board discussed purchasing an additional 6-month CD sometime this year.
* The BFLA Board liability insurance is due soon. Paul Steil reviewed the plan; there are no changes, and the cost is the same.

1. Membership Drive update – Kit

* $29,000 raised so far this year from membership dues and expect to raise around another $10,000 based on previous membership totals. 43 members decided to donate this year who have not donated for several years.
* $13,347 designated by members for additional research.
* 60 requests so far for a laminated lake map. ***Matt made a motion to order 100 laminated lake maps for BFL property owners, not to exceed a total cost of $2200. John seconded the motion, and it was approved.***

1. Township Update – John

There will be a 2% tax increase levy this spring for Collegeville Township. The township has no debt and has around $1 million in CDs. The township plans to spend $1.6 million on roads in the next year and purchase a new snow plow in 2024.

1. Stearns County Environmental Services

The board discussed a property on the lake with a building near the shore in violation of the county standards for shorelines. In the past, the board has submitted letters to uphold the standards set forth by the county. ***Kit made a motion to approve a BFLA response to the Stearns County Environmental Services request for variance to uphold county standards. Hailey seconded the motion, and it was approved.***

1. Outlet update – Allen

The Collegeville Township approved donating $400 for the permit. The project should begin in the middle of February as soon as we have the DNR permit and should take 1-2 days.

1. BFLA Annual Meeting agenda planning

* Matt will reserve the town hall for the third Saturday in June. June 15, 2024.
* Jeff Forester from MN Lakes and Rivers is confirmed to speak at the meeting.
* Boat safety courses for kids
* Education committee
* Matt Peters’ family story on the lake

1. January Newsletter

The Board discussed information to include in the January e-newsletter including: Winterpalooza event promo for February 24, for sale section, history of the lake stories, membership drive update, and information on jet ski lifts with styrofoam beads polluting the lake.

1. Loon nests

The Board discussed the possible addition of a loon nest on the south side of the lake. BFLA puts out 4 nests every summer and only 3 are ever used by loons.

1. Board member status, terms up in 2024

* There will be one possible board opening in 2024 due to Bill Unger leaving the board. The board also needs to fill the vice president position.
* Kit, Megan, Doug and Bill have terms ending in 2024. Mark, John, Matt, Hailey and Nancy have terms ending in 2025.

1. AIS Emergency Response Plan – Kit

The Board reviewed a draft AIS emergency response plan drafted by Kit detailing the steps to take should any AIS be found on BFL.

1. Adjourn (7:23 p.m.)