

## **Minutes for BFLA Board Meeting For January 15, 2024**

Members present: Mark Backes, Matt Peters, Kit Ferber, John Ronning, Hailey Wachlarowicz-Bayer, Nancy Van Erp and Allen Schmitz (advisor)

Guests: Pat Carnes and Ben Thoele

The meeting was at Mark's house and it started at 6:06 pm.

An introduction was made for all present due to the guests attending the meeting.

- 1) It was discussed that we are in need of a "Social Committee" for BFL and Pat Carnes has agreed to be on the committee but did not want to chair it. The social picnic was discussed and possible changes for it. Instead of having the picnic at the Hidden Cove Orchard it was presented that maybe Pat and Doug Carnes would have it in their newly remodeled shed and if the area is not soft parking may be on the adjacent grass area. Pat mentioned she is in discussion with Denise Fandel and Joyce Klute on planning this event. They wondered if the picnic should be on the usual Thursday or should we try and have it on a Sunday afternoon instead. Pat suggested that we ask homeowners in a future newsletter to get opinions from them. Pat will meet with Denise and Joyce again and then will give some dates for Kit to publish in a newsletter.

Food choices were revisited from having grilled burgers, brats and hot dogs again with a potluck, Subway or have the food delivered. The consensus seemed to be grilling the food. A progressive meal was even suggested.

A budget was brought up and it was suggested that we allot \$1500 for the committee to use. John made the motion and Hailey seconded it and all approved.

BFLA would pay for the Port-a-potty.

- 2) Ben Thoele, our IT expert, was next on the agenda. He has agreed to help us with securing our documents and backing them up safely in case another Board Member has to access the information. It was suggested that we put everything in a subscription "safe box" via Microsoft 365 Cloud then we don't have to worry about backing up our documents. Kit will send Ben and Nancy (who has agreed to help Ben) a list of the emails and phone numbers for those that are on the Board. Ben will do some more research on this to cover all of Kit's spreadsheets, Matt's Treasurer Quicken reports and all of our minutes. If necessary financial reports can be shared but not edited except by the author of the documents.
- 3) Mark talked to Mark Krebsbach, a Certified Public Accountant and BFL Association member, has agreed to assist with accounting reporting of the Initiative Foundation Conservancy and Emergency Funds.
- 4) Mark is now on the Lake Association committee for the Minnesota Lakes and River Advocates that lobby at the State Legislature to help promote our needs and wants. Kit is also on the Starry Stonewort committee for MLR as well.
- 5) Megan Johnson, now serving on the Stearns County AIS Committee for our association, requested to have someone take her place on the committee. We will post this in the next newsletter.

- 6) Matt did the Treasury report which shows that we have \$46,333.92 in our checking account. Reminder that over half of that amount will go towards boat inspections this boating season. We also have three \$20,000 CDs at the bank that earned approximately \$500 in interest in the past year or so.
- 7) Kit gave a report on the 2025 membership drive. So far, about 135 families have donated since letters went out in November for a sum of \$28,605. A Gentle Reminder letter will be sent in March to remind those that have not contributed yet. Several members have included dollars to be used towards Additional Research and that amount is now up to \$16,926. We are on track to have an 85% participation rate at this point during the drive which will be the best we have ever had!
- 8) Allen reported on the clean out of the ditch by the outlet. There is a lot of sand and dirt that has to be hauled away. The work is scheduled to be completed this winter and will cost us about \$12,000.
- 9) Next week Mark, Matt and Kit will meet to work on the 2025 budget.
- 10) John Ronning gave us an update on roads in the Township and shared a map of where roads are in excellent shape vs. in need a repair. Hidden Cove Road may be on the docket to repair in 2025. John reported that the next Annual Collegeville Township meeting is on March 11<sup>th</sup>.
- 11) We received quite a lengthy email from Jodi Teich, from Stearns County, to discuss the possibility of reducing the salt that is placed on County Road 50 between Hillhaven Road and Harbor Road. There are about 4,500 cars that travel between Avon and Cold Spring every day and safety is the main concern. Snowplow drivers get special training regarding the salt distribution and no changes will happen at this time.
- 12) Mark has been researching the idea of putting together an "Education" packet for members on the lake to encourage lake stewardship and to learn good shoreline practices. Nancy said that she would like to get permission from Stearns County and the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates to use their articles. We did not for see a problem with this.
- 13) Next meeting is set for February 12, 2025 at 6 pm at Mark's house.

Minutes written by Kit Ferber