



BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION



October 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. After introductions of the BLA board and people in attendance (46 members), the pledge was recited and the minutes from the previous meeting were read. The following corrections were made:

Corry Hide is the contact person for Waverly Township, **Terri Wilde** was added to the Communications Committee by the committee, and phragmites were seen on **Black River Road** not along the Black River. A motion was made to accept the minutes with the corrections. It was seconded and passed. Our treasurer presented a **Year End Report**, dating from September 2014 through August 2015. This report will be posted on the BLA website. The treasurer's report was received and filed subject to audit. Our president reported that the BLA is due for an audit. Ron Dulak looked into CPAs in the Cheboygan area and found the cost to be \$400-\$650. Mary Rocco suggested we use Richard Nash. He is a CPA and a member of the BLA. Richard offered to perform the audit at no cost to the association. A motion was made to accept Richard's offer. It was seconded and passed. A member questioned the \$8000 under Membership and other. Cindy explained that it was a line item transfer that was approved at the July 13th meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership Committee – We have 492 paid members as of October 1st. Boyd Smith reported that he requested and received the names and addresses (both mailing and physical addresses) of the owners of parcels on Black Lake from the Cheboygan County for \$25 and from Presque Isle County for \$15. We still need the names and addresses of residents across the road from the lake. There are 560 parcels in Cheboygan County and 277 in Presque Isle County. This information will be used to mail out our Newsletter.

Township Reports- N Allis reported that the bridge over the Rainy River should be completed by December 1st. None of the other Townships had anything to report.

Channel Markers-Brett Trepanier reported that the channel markers are out, washed and stored at Gary Shepard's. Two buoys have been damaged and need to be replaced. All the red buoys are fading and will need to be replaced. Brett is looking into availability and pricing. Brett's dad and wife have been assisting him in placing and removing the buoys.

OLD BUSINESS

FISH COMMITTEE- An electro shock survey will take place on October 28 (since the meeting, the date has been changed to October 15) by the Little Traverse Band of Odawa Indians. This is a no cost survey performed by the Tribe which will help determine if natural reproduction is occurring. Boyd Smith and Roger Selvig will be on the boat representing the BLA. 8000 to 9000 walleye fingerlings will be planted on October 21st at 1pm at the State Park. The DNR suggested we not plant fish for a few years and we haven't for the past 2 years but because the community has donated money for the purpose of fish stocking, we feel committed to planting fish this last time. The DNR has approved a permit for us to do this. Discussion followed and the membership was reminded that the decision on restocking was passed at our July meeting.

PHRAGMITES- Roger Selvig reported that the phragmites on the north end of the lake was treated this fall. A follow-up visit will be done and the results will be reported to the BLA. Roger will notify the property owners that eradication has been completed. Huron Pines billed us \$100 for this service. Virgil Smith reported 4 sightings of phragmites on Black River Road. Permission from the county and the homeowners must be obtained before it can be treated. Some of these patches have been treated in the past. It may be too late in the season to treat these areas this year. Virgil shared some fliers on Huron Pines and Phragmites.

COMMUNICATION REPORT- The communications committee met twice since inception. Mary Rocco, chairperson, made a motion for the **Black Lake Association Communications Committee** be recognized as a standing committee.

This motion was seconded and passed. The committee shared their purpose statement. Discussion followed on the face book page that the committee developed. Negative accusations have been made against the board. The committee says that no negative comments were made-several members reported reading negative comments. The developer of the face book page has the authority to delete items from the page. The board does not feel it should be put in a situation to constantly defend themselves. Some members feel a face book page would be a great communication tool for the BLA. The board does not disagree with this but so far they feel the face book page has been used to attack the BLA. The board does not want the words **Black Lake Association** to be part of the name of this face book page. The committee wants to call the page Friends of the Black Lake Association. Linda Pynnonen made a recommendation for the board to make a motion to call the face book page **Friends of the Black Lake Association, Onaway, Mi.** The board will not recognize this name. Being a 501(C) 3 non-profit has defined our boundaries according to Roger Selvig. We do not have the luxury of advertising boats and renting cottages. Randy Lewis related the committee's desire to improve communication with our community via face book, there was no intention to upset anyone. Mary Rocco feels that because most of our members are seasonal they would truly benefit from a face book page.

WEBSITE- Cindy Trepanier reported that the minutes and meeting dates will be on our website as soon as Matt Ginop gets it up and running. He is working on it now and it should be ready soon.

THE STATE PARK-Virgil shared a letter from Keith Cheli, Regional Field Planner of the DNR: " We are waiting for a visit from the State Archeologist at Onaway State Park to perform an investigation in the areas conceptually proposed for a second improvement effort. The State of MI new fiscal year started October 1, so it doesn't appear that the Onaway State Park boat launch will receive funding for additional improvements at this time; furthermore, it is questionable if additional improvements are required at this location. Much of the work that has been recently completed appears to have made a significant enhancement in the function, flow and safety of the boat launch and launching activity. As previously

discussed, assuming we will continue to monitor the activity at the boat launch, it will be important to develop a single criteria and format that can be used to record observations consistently regardless of who is performing the observations. There are a number of land acquisitions state wide priorities above the Black Lake Marina proposal and it may be some time before this proposal is able to be considered. We will know more after January 1st. It may still be valuable to coordinate an informal stakeholder meeting with this group as discussed late fall or early winter to continue our discussion in an informative and transparent fashion.

Regarding the trailside shelter, Spooners' Roost, Unit Supervisor Jeremy Spell is working to schedule an appointment with the historic restoration contractor to develop a proposal and plan to rehabilitate the entire structure. This scope of work will include fixing the chimney and fireplace, repointing the stone work, log repair or replacement and new cedar shake shingles. Our Stewardship Department is very pleased in this effort and has already provided a small amount of funding to begin this initiative. The tentative BLA financial support of \$5000 from a generous family would be helpful in generating matching money from the DNR and likely additional funding above and beyond which may help us to realize a full structural restoration. Once the contractor provides the estimate, we will be able to develop a more detailed plan for improvement."

A group of members conducted their own survey on **wait time** at the boat launch. This was without the board's approval. They were asked by our president not to do this since it may impact the BLA relationship with the DNR. They went ahead and did it. It was suggested that members work with the board. After discussion, Virgil Smith made a motion that all moneys from the banquet, raffles, etc., go into a general fund to be used when specific needs arise. The motion was seconded and passed.

BYLAWS CHANGE PROPOSAL- President Virgil Smith shared our mission statements from our bylaws dating back to 1964. Each time it was changed **fishing** appeared in our mission statement. Fishing is not new, it was not just added as a member suggested. Mary Rocco made a motion to create a

committee to review the bylaws periodically. Virgil Smith explained that they are reviewed every two years. Changes can be suggested and then voted on at a general BLA meeting. The Association is required to have the suggested changes available to its members 30 days prior to a vote. The motion was withdrawn.

NEW BUSINESS

COALITION TO PROTECT MICHIGAN RESOURCES- Frank Krist presented a report on the negotiations of the Tribal Treaties. The present treaty will be renegotiated in 2020. It is in the BLA best interest to make sure that this treaty has a minimal effect on our lake. Having the correct information is a valuable tool in understanding the workings of the agreements. In order for our voices to be heard it was suggested that the BLA join the coalition. There is a one-time cost of \$2300 with added assessments as needed. We can withdraw at any time and still attend the meetings but will have no vote. A motion was made to join, it was seconded and passed.

Due to the late hour, several topics on our agenda were not discussed:

UPPER BLACK RIVER SAND LOAD

PROJECT PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE BLACK LAKE EXPERIENCE

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

NEW BUSINESS

VISION, MISSION, STRATEGIC PLANNING

WINTER BOARD MEETING

MEMBER INPUT AND CONCERNS

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Smith, secretary

