

Bay Lake Improvement Association Board Meeting

Lonesome Pine
December 8, 2012

Present: Chris Ruttger, Chris Gondeck, Sylvia Graff, Dominic Ciresi. Gary Malek, Josh Goolsbee, Betty Marquardt
Guest: Jason Schumacher

The Board meeting was called to order by President Chris Ruttger at 11:14 am by welcoming all who were in attendance.

Secretary's Report – A motion to approve the September Board meeting minutes was made by Dominic Ciresi and seconded by Sylvia Graff. Motion passed.

Treasurers' Reports - Sylvia Graff indicated that she needed more money in order to pay for the fireworks. The bill for this year was \$9500. There will be a CD coming due in 2013 and at that time will check to see where best to renew it.

Chris Gondeck indicated we are behind on revenue by \$37,000. To date \$125,000 has been spent, which is \$46,000 less than projected so we should end up with a surplus. There was less spent on boat inspection than had been budgeted. David Devins may have to ask for more money next year for controlling milfoil.

The gross amount for the Golf Scramble will be added to the financial report.

There was much discussion on how the financial reports and different funds are set up. Some names of Board people that have been on the accounts will be removed and more current ones added in order to keep us up to date. Bruce Johnson will be looking into how to keep our database current and correct.

Chris Gondeck moved to change the \$10,000 amount to \$15,000 for the Activity Fund, formerly called the General Account. This will enable Sylvia to cover expenses for fireworks. Betty Marquardt moved to accept the motion. Josh Goolsbee seconded it. Motion passed.

We have accounts and CD's at various banks, partly because some offer better rates than others. We have about \$100,000 in CD's at this point.

Chris indicated that until all bills and revenues have come in at the end of the year it's difficult to know exactly where we stand financially. We could have some major expenses next year because of increased boat inspection and more funds needed to control milfoil. The financial report was unofficially accepted.

Membership – Betty Marquardt reported that as of December 8 we had 486 members, along with \$8370 being contributed for fireworks. Josh Goolsbee indicated, rather rashly, that he would increase membership by 20% next year! Good luck to Josh! Jason Schumacher will be helping him.

Access Monitoring – Phil Rollins emailed his report and a motion was made by Dominic Ciresi to include it in the minutes. Chris Gondeck seconded it. Motion passed. The following is Phil Rollins Report (unedited) in a different font.

Update on Township Board

Chris Ruttger attended the most recent township meeting on November 13. Chris can report at the meeting, but here's what I think we know:

1. The Township Board approved a slightly modified version of the new restrictions on lake access activities,
2. They discussed the proposal to close the Brighton Point Road access and are considering whether or not a second public hearing is required,
3. They approved sending a letter to the owner of the rental property on Brighton Point Road involved in the dispute over lake access, requesting her to remove the dock section from the path to the lake.

I am disappointed that the Township Board is thinking another public hearing is necessary, especially as so many lakeshore owners are away for the winter. There has been no response to my email to Don Hales asking for some rationale on the second hearing. Also, we do not have the new access restrictions.

Public Access Update

Prior to departing for Calif. in October, I met with county staff to make clear our intentions for 2013, that is to schedule as many Class I inspectors as possible. Recently, the staff contacted me and other lake associations asking for more information. I believe they are trying to form a comprehensive plan to assist as many lake associations as ask for help. My guess is that they will offer to hire fewer inspectors than we want, assuming we'll fill in with volunteers. And of course, assuming the lake associations will pay for the inspectors.

Also, I intend to file the DNR grant request for subsidized Class I inspectors, as we have done in recent years. Thus far, DNR staff has indicated there will be less grant funding available in 2013 than there has been, so we should expect less inspector hours.

DNR has already contacted me (and other lake associations) about scheduling volunteer training in 2013. I'll be responding that we want sessions scheduled as early as possible in the season.

Zebra's Not Observed

I have not heard anything about zebra mussels being discovered on any structures removed from the lake. We may have dodged the bullet another year or the little critters just weren't seen. A tentative sigh of relief from here, 2000 miles to the west.

Planning for Next Year (in part from my Sept. 15 report)

Assuming we're facing the same threats next year, here's what I believe we need to do to enhance our efforts to minimize our AIS risks:

1. Control or close the Brighton Point Rd access,
2. Continue to encourage the Township Board to adopt a new policy restricting the use and modification of township owned lake access points,
3. Install a gate at the entrance to the public access parking lot,
4. Establish "open" hours for the public ramp,
5. Have available a decontamination station in the immediate area,
6. Staff the ramp with Class I inspectors during all "open" hours.

It appears that we can hire Class I inspectors through the county, assuming we pay the costs. And, Bay Lake Marine and perhaps Weekend Extensions are considering setting up public commercial boat decon stations.

Here are the challenges. Currently, DNR won't allow a gate or the restriction of access, including setting "open" and "closing" hours. There will likely be much discussion about these topics over the winter. I will push for our interests through MSRPO, which does lobby state legislators and regulators.

Note there is no mention of volunteers for 2013. It's my opinion that we are much better served by inspectors and the authority they have to inspect boats. However, DNR has given early indication that they won't be hiring enough Class I inspectors to meet all the lake association needs, so we will likely need to continue the volunteer program, hopefully on a reduced basis.

Costs will be a big issue next year; here's how I see it. These are the projected hours of inspectors:

April 15-30: 15 days x 13 hours daily (6am-7pm) = 195 hours

May 1-31: 31 days x 13 hours daily (6am-7pm) = 403

June 1-30: 30 days x 14 hours daily (6am-8pm) = 420

July 1-31: 31 days x 14 hours daily (6am-8pm) = 434

August 1-31: 31 days x 14 hours daily (6am-8pm) = 434

Sept. 1-30: 30 days x 13 hours daily (6am-7pm) = 390

Total is 2,276 hours, or 2,300 for estimating. I'm assuming we'd contract with DNR again for 400 hours, so here's how the cost would breakdown:

DNR: 400 hours x \$8/hour = \$3,200
Inspectors: 1,900 hours x \$17 = \$32,300

Assuming we put in a gate, there would be cost there as well.

iLids (partly from my Sept. 15 report)

Our 3-year contract with iLids expires at the end of this year. Annual costs are about \$3000 and could be reduced to \$2000 if we did not have them reviewing all the video. We do get some great statistics on ramp usage out of the video review, however. This should be decided at the December Board meeting and I favor another year at \$2,000.

Summary

Much is in flux at the moment. I'll doing whatever planning possible to allow us to be prepared with inspectors and volunteers early in the season. Much depends on what the county is willing to do, what DNR can commit for grant support, and how our volunteers respond. Further, the Township has several important issues on their agenda, none of which have truly resolved as yet. It's shaping up to be another busy summer.
End of Phil's report

There was much discussion on continuing to use the ILID. Sylvia Graff moved to continue the contract for one year at which time it would again be reevaluated. Gary Malek seconded it. Motion passed. We will see if we can wait till April to start the contract. The cost would be about \$2,000. Chris Ruttger will contact Phil regarding this. There was discussion on Phil's projected budget for 2013. Board members felt we should leave it as suggested and discuss it further when Phil is available. It is felt that Phil is doing an outstanding job with monitoring! The Bay Lake Township has voted to remove the dock and boardwalk on an easement on Bay Lake. The sheriff will be the one to enforce this rule. There are many other easements around the lake where this could also be an issue, but the Township will deal with it on a case by case basis.

Regarding a gate to be erected at the public access, the Township has not made a decision. They may need a public hearing on this issue before deciding. The BLIA would have to pay for it.

2013 Board Meeting Dates! Take note!

April 20 - 11:00 – Lonesome Pine
May 11 – 9:00 – Ruttger's
June 8 – 9:00 – Ruttger's
Ruttger's
ANNUAL MEETING – July 6 – Ruttger's
Lonesome Pine

July 20 – 9:00 – Ruttger's
August 17 – 9:00 – Ruttger's
September 14 – 9:00 –
December 14 – 11:00 –

Committee Chairs – It is important to get your budgets in to the President and Treasurer so they can formulate the 2013 budget!

Officer Elections - Dominic, acting as Nominating Chair in lieu of Trish who could not attend, moved to have Bruce Johnson elected as vice-president and Board member, and Phil Rollins as a Board member. This was seconded and passed. There was discussion as to who would take over as Secretary after the Annual Meeting. A number of names were put forth and will be followed up on.

Christmas Party – Sylvia said there were 99 reservations for that evening. Hopefully, the weather would not deter too many from coming. She also indicated she has a new email address: graffbay@gmail.com. Also, she has about 40 Bay Lake posters and would offer them for sale at the party that evening for \$10.00 each. The suggestion was made to offer them to all new BLIA members.

Chris Ruttger was thanked for the great job he did as President of the BLIA. All his work and dedication was much appreciated.

Dominic Ciresi moved to adjourn the Board meeting at 12:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Marquardt,
Acting Secretary