
July BLA Annual Meeting

Saturday, July 9th 2022

Attendees:

Mary Kowlaski

Jeff and Jenna Labash

Andrew and Gwen
Doubblestein

Mike Schirott

Art and Mary Hansen

Laurie and Greg Macri

Mary Wain

Jen Erbe

Joan and Tom Vidic

Diana and Tom Lykowski

Jon Walker

Sue Stout

Lynda Awald

Julie Kershner

Tom Kershner

Susan Vosmik

Julie Lawson and Greg
Strintz

Tom Miller

Cliff Yehle

Len Morreale

Greg Desmond

Michael Segobiano

Diana Clew

Ray Yoder

Mary Goodhew

Carol Erbe

Ike Smith

Ami and Ryan Sailor

Randy and Val Miller

Chris Jaworski

Meeting was called to order at 9:08am

Replacing the reading of the minutes from the previous month, members were advised that the meeting notes can be found on our website. Meeting notes are usually posted a few days after the meeting.

Review of action items from the 2021 annual meeting;

Social Directors - Done. Laurie Macri and Mary Wain have helped to organize lake events and initiate new lake activities.

Poker Run for 2022 - scheduled for July 16, 2022.

Fireworks - Done. BLA hosted our first fireworks show on July 3, 2022. Based on the applause, everyone really enjoyed seeing fireworks on our lake! Thank you to Sheila Terlep, who coordinated this event.

Apparel Store - Done. Current store is closing on Sunday, July 10, 2022.

Upgrading Website - Done. The new BLA website has increased functionality and is more interactive. This has helped tremendously in providing information and communicating with residents.

Boat Landing asphalt needed to be sealed - Done.

Amendment of The Constitution and Bylaws - Done. Draft is ready to be presented and voted on at the annual meeting.

Officer's Election - Done. Last year, Mary Kowalski was elected President, Andrew Doubblestein was elected VP and Jen Erbe was elected Secretary.

Other notable events - We stocked the lake with perch in the Spring of 2022. New social events / activities this year included the Leprechaun Leap, Kids Fishing Tournament and the Baldwin Lake Triathlon.

Treasurer's Report: current balance is approximately \$31,000. Over the last two years, we did not have Poker Run money coming in, but our expenditures were also down. Big expenses so far this year were the fireworks (\$15,000). We will have Poker Run funds coming in soon. We also have membership renewals that have not been posted yet.

Some notes on expenditures:

- Poker Run helps to fund Mosquito sprays. Price went up 10%, to approximately \$2400 per spray.
- We spent approximately \$2200 on fish stocking.
- We spent approximately \$1300 for an oxygen meter for monitoring the lake.
- We spent approximately \$3900 to treat the invasive milfoil on the lake.
- In the past, the Poker Run has brought in profits of approximately \$10,000.

Committee Reports - As discussed at the 2021 BLA Annual Meeting, our bylaws need to be updated to include social activities.

A committee was formed to work on this project and update the document. This is now ready to be voted on. Committee included Mike Schirott, Mary Kowalski, Andrew Doubblestein, Jenna Labash, Susan Vosmik and Karen Tan.

The new document with the proposed changes was shared via BLA Facebook and the email distribution list. Document was sent out for everyone to review.

Jenna Labash summarized the changes and read the updated sections out loud. In Article II: Purpose, the committee updated the outlined purpose to include a provision for planning social activities. In Article IV: Organization, the committee added Section 2A which outlines the requirements for candidates running for the BLA Executive Board. Minor changes were also made to formatting to make the document easier to read and more easily understood.

MOTION was made to accept the changes to the bylaws, Mary Kowalski seconded the motion.

ANOTHER MOTION was made and seconded by Tim Osborn to postpone voting.

Several people stated that they did not receive an email about the proposed changes.

It was confirmed that this information was posted on the BLA Facebook account. Not all members follow us on Facebook. In addition, updates on the activity of the bylaws committee have been included in the minutes for the monthly BLA meetings. Meetings are open to the public.

Other discussions took place on what next steps should be made, members voicing concern that they didn't know of these changes. It was also clarified that bylaws could only be voted upon at the annual meeting and needed to be approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of those present at the meeting.

Per Robert's Rules of Order, since a motion was already made and seconded to approve the bylaws, the first motion took precedence over the second motion. A vote was taken to approve the new bylaws and the motion was passed. Vote count was 38 in favor of 8 people voting no.

Tim Osborn requested that it be noted that not all members felt that they had had sufficient time to review the proposed bylaws before voting upon it.

Water/Environment:

1. Water quality:

- a. **Water temp** is very warm (80 degrees to a depth of 10 feet). Clarity (Secchi disk) is at 5 feet 10 inches on our last test conducted 7/7. That lack of clarity would be expected in late August not early July. The recent 2 ½ inches of rain will generate accelerated algae blooms. Lake users should look up blue green algae so they can spot it when and if it occurs.
- b. **Oxygen meter testing** We bought an oxygen meter and are in the monitoring program for the State of Michigan. The Restorative Sciences study of our lake in 2019 found depleted oxygen levels at the deepest basin in the lake. Ideally, the oxygen readings should be greater than 5mg/L to sustain a healthy warm water fishery.

In 2019 said test found readings of 10.1 mg/L to .04 mg/l at the deepest part of the lake. Our testing has been conducted bi-weekly since the end of May. We will continue to perform until mid-September. Our results will be analyzed by the Michigan State Biologists that are affiliated with Michigan Lakes and Streams Association. So far our results have shown a confirmation

of the oxygen depletion at the deepest basin in the lake. The textbook determination of that depletion of oxygen is the result of the lake attempting to break down high quantities of plant matter.

- c. **Information on lake health** We are working on adding more information regarding lake health and stewardship to the BLA website. We included some of this information in our mailed membership renewal forms. More information can be found at <https://mymlsa.org/>.

Results from the state biologists with the lakes monitoring program will be shared as we receive it. If anyone would like to be involved, you may come along when we do testing. The easiest and best solution for all of us is to stop fertilizing lawns at least 50 feet from the lake. Water your grass with lake water. It makes for vital lawns and keeps chemicals out of the water column.

2. Boat Count: we are up 7 boats from last year. **490 total.**

The breakdown of the boats are 262 pontoons, 80 PWC's, 106 speed boats of which 14 were wake/surf boats and 32 fishing boats. Willow shores had 53 pontoons, 5 PWC's, 18 speed boats and 1 fishing boat for a total of 77. That is less than their legal limit. Also Lake Affect had 17 boats. We also have 10 sailboats.

- 3. Wake Boat Study:** a study was completed by two Professors at the University of Minnesota. The MLSA contributed to the cost of the study. The study is published. You can find it at <HTTPS://CONSERVANCY.UMN.EDU/handle/11299/226190>.
- a. They studied the measurement from the crest to the trough of the wave caused by various boat wakes. The boats were a stern drive inboard / outboard with an adjustable trim (think a Crestliner). The second boat was a direct drive inboard with a straight shaft propeller and rudder (Nautique type of boat). The other boats were wake surf boats - a Malibu MXZ and a smaller Malibu VLX.
 - b. The testing was done in runs parallel to the shore at distances of 225, 325, 425 and 625 feet from the shore. The inboard/outboard boat was run with and without a wake shaper. The results were similar to a wake boat with the added wake shaper. The test lake was 35 feet deep, had minimal vegetation and a shore line of rip rap. Minnesota has a 200 foot rule so they did not run the test at the Michigan 100 foot rule length.
 - c. The results demonstrated that the wave generated by a wake surf boat is 6-12 times greater than a normal speed boat. The highest waves were generated at the slowest speeds with the boats at full ballast.
 - d. The second phase of the test will be done this year. That phase of the study will measure from the trough of the wave to the lake bottom. The MLSA is

making a contribution to fund the study. The results will be fully vetted and published by this time next year.

- e. They are trying to determine the effect of these wake boats and how it is impacting our shoreline.
- f. Right now, it is unknown what, if anything, Michigan/Cass County/Porter Township is going to do about this study.
- g. **In Conclusion, these boats need 500ft from shore to have the wake dissipate. The only place that the wake surf boats can successfully accomplish this distance is on the main lake if they stick to the middle.**
- h. Suggestion made: Have a meeting to discuss water safety and include Blake Winstead State of Michigan Environmental Quality Analyst. Mike Schirott is reaching out to him to determine if he can assist in a shoreline program and possibly attend our next monthly meeting.

Community Affairs

Progress with regard to the speed limits on Sunset Boulevard

One year ago when this was presented, Andrew and Gwen were excited to get involved. Sunset is a through road. This could include a speed study.

Possible outcomes of a speed study would be that it is determined the speed limit should remain the same. However, it is also a possibility that they could determine it would be appropriate to INCREASE the speed limit. This is a result of whatever 85% of the drivers are driving.

We would need the whole community to come together to observe the current posted speed limit.

We kind of hit a dead end with this, due to not wanting to face the possibility of increasing the speed limit.

One month ago, we were supposed to have a light up speed limit sign, this fell through the cracks with the County.

Andrew is still discussing with the sheriff on getting a light up speed limit sign or a radar sign. It could be installed in the next few weeks.

BLA has put up signs to help remind people to slow down.

Discussion:

Someone brought up the idea of signs that say “residents recommended speed is 30 mph”. However, there is a concern that this could create an unwanted liability.

Someone suggested getting stop signs at the landing at Beechwood. Through discussions with the Sheriff and previous meetings, there is concern that people aren't used to it, and they will fly through it and hit others that stop.

Some people stressed that it might help with traffic and slow people down on Sunset if there was a stop sign there. Others agreed.

We would have to make sure people that live there will have to be okay with this stop sign being there. There is an agreement that would make people more cautious of using the ramp and coming up to the area.

In the meantime, BLA will continue to post signs to bring awareness.

Membership and Zone Advisors

Membership renewals keep coming in.

All Zone Advisors will be getting a list of houses in their zone.

Zone map is on the website for everyone to see what zone they are in.

We want the Zone Advisors to get more involved. We ask that our Zone Advisors pass out new membership bags. Mary Hansen also encouraged members to reach out to their Zone Advisors if they have questions about anything that the BLA is doing.

There are 173 active members of BLA out of approximately 300 houses.

Someone asked if we have an idea of the percentage of homes that are full-time residents versus part-time residents. BLA does not have that information.

Social

Poker Run

We have had a great summer so far, next step is POKER RUN!

Please come and buy tickets.

Dates and times for ticket sales have been posted on Facebook and sent out via email.

There will be a food truck parked at the host house (Dumm's / Ike Smith). Bob Pettit also noted that he will have a smoker doing pulled pork. CASH ONLY

Jobs to be filled:

- Mike Shirott still needs volunteers to help open cards. You do not have to know how to play Poker. He will be doing shifts.
- Carol Erbe needs help with set up and clean up for Poker Run.

Fireworks

Donations for Fireworks were added to membership forms and on our BLA website.

Music on the Water

We are still looking for residents to host Music on the Water! BLA will help to pay for the band, contributing 50% of the cost up to \$500.

Baldwin Lake Triathlon (BLT)

We are hosting our first Baldwin Lake Triathlon on Saturday, July 30th.

Cut off for registration is MONDAY, July 11th.

We need a lot of volunteers: boats, golf carts, ATVs.

Get outside of your house and cheer people on.

Band is 10-2 at Dumms.

IMPORTANT NEWS: We will be closing Sunset for this event. Road will be closed from 8am - 10am, from Michigan Ave to Wayne street. Zimmy's / George's / Mill's will still be accessible.

NOTICES will be going out several times. FB posts/Email/Door to door flyers!

Anyone living on this stretch, please talk with neighbors to get the word out.

Course maps are online, we also have hard copies available for anyone to take.

About 30 people signed up so far.

Volunteers can sign up online. All volunteers will get a t-shirt.

Officer Election

1 Vice President position and the Treasurer position are both up for election. Both Mike Schirott (VP) and Treasurer (Jenna Labash) are willing to continue in their roles.

Mary Kowalski asked if anyone was interested in running for either position. No one was nominated or expressed interest.

MOTION: Mary Kowalski moved to renew VP Mike Schirott and Treasurer Jenna Labash.

VOTE for Mike Schirott as VP. All in favor. No one opposed.

VOTE for Jenna Labash as Treasurer. All in favor. No one opposed.

Old Business - none

New Business -

Landing at Beechwood

The landing is in need of repair.

Landing construction was done in 2014. The landing consists of 9 cement slabs. We have developed an issue at the end of the 9th slab. It is washing out. The proposed fix (not a permanent solution) is to add limestone / river rock to fill voids. We will have to pull a EGLE permit. It is thought that the issue is a combination of several factors, including power loading of boats, natural springs and the marl lake bottom.

Quantum Construction has been out to evaluate and gave BLA an estimate of \$16,850 to fix (patch) the landing. This will deplete about 50% of our current funds.

The proposed repair would happen in September, after Labor Day and potentially shut down the landing for 2-3 days.

Someone asked how long the proposed repair would last. Unfortunately, that is unknown at this time.

To rebuild the landing entirely, we would need to put in a dam and pull the original slabs out, fix the bottom and add more slabs, this could be a starting cost of \$80,000.

Bob Pettit coordinated to have Chad from Niblock come out to evaluate to get a second quote.

MOTION was made to go forward and spend up to \$16,850 (quote) + the price of any permits required to have the landing repaired. Board will evaluate all quotes.

Mary Kowalski seconds motion.

Discussion: Mike Schirott pointed out that the issue is only going to get worse. We do not want to be pushy about spending funds on this repair, but lack of action could put us in a position where it will only get more expensive to fix.

VOTE majority in favor to move forward with repairs, up to \$16,850 + cost of permits.

Open Discussion:

GooseBusters

Question: How many eggs did GooseBusters collect?

Approximately 54 eggs were collected. They could not round up geese this year, due to the prevalence of avian influenza.

Question: Are we doing Goosebusters again for 2023?

We had a resolution from Porter Township to allow BLA to hire a company for goose control. The resolution was good for 5 years and this was our fifth year. If we would like to continue, we will need a new resolution from the township. After a new resolution is reached, we apply for a yearly permit through the State of MI. Then we contact GooseBusters.

MOTION: Len Morreale made a motion to request a new resolution and continue with goose control efforts. Motion seconded by Tim Osborn.

VOTE: Majority in favor to continue goose control efforts and renew resolution / contracts / permits.

Len Morreale will help coordinate goose roundup.

Eurasian Milfoil

Question: Is there an update on milfoil?

We did not treat this year. Per Aquatic Weed Control, we need 10 acre lots to treat effectively. While there is still milfoil in the lake, it is in smaller patches.

BLA has asked residents to let the board know if they see Eurasian Milfoil on their property. Aquatic would then come out to evaluate the size of the affected areas.

Question: Are people on the North end still seeing milfoil?

Yes, in small patches in areas that were not previously treated. Affected area is not large enough for mass treatment. Original treatment area was along Hilltop.

Baldwin Lake Association App

It was suggested that we create an app that could help improve and streamline communication. The App could be linked to the BLA website and push notifications to people. This could help decrease the number of people who are missing emails and Facebook posts.

Jeff labash will look into this software.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.