

Big Basswood Lake Association Board Meeting

September 17, 2018

Sowerby Hall, 7 p.m.

Members Present: Larry Allcorn, Nancy Bakemeier, Joanne Falkland, Phil Conley (via speaker phone), Dixie Olmstead

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:15. Meeting agenda was reviewed.

Minutes from the June 28, 2018 were read by the president. Nancy made the motion to approve the minutes and Dixie seconded. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented by Larry on behalf of Cynthia Wood, treasurer, who could not attend due to an accident.

The balance, as of April 1, 2018, is \$7,071.03. Revenues stand at \$3,376.60 since April. The expenditures are \$1,942.51.

Balance: as of September 10, 2018 was \$8,505.18

FOCA Membership dues and insurance are still owed.

Discussion focused on accounting of revenues from membership dues and from calendar sales. Receipts have been given for dues and calendars but those accepting the dues and calendar money do not always have access to the receipt book. It was suggested to provide a receipt book for each board member next year so that each will be able to write a receipt for payment of dues or of calendars. Each receipt book will have an identifying sign. (?)

Cynthia has also designed an envelope to receive and record all financial activity after each session at the barn. There are spaces to record:

Memberships sold

Calendars sold

Total Cheques

Total cash

This will be the process from now until Thanksgiving.

Larry also suggested that we might develop information “packets” to give to new people on the lake to encourage membership.

Committee Reports:

The official membership is now 104 members and last year was 114. Larry has 4 in hand from Melwel and Erik, Melwel manager is promoting membership as well. Each board member is encouraged to try and recruit 5 more members in the next two weeks. We also will encourage associate memberships, considering guests who frequently visit us at the lake and memberships from businesses who supply services and products to Basswood cottage owners.

A winter project will be to “clean-up” the membership records. Joanne noted that she sees many deceased people on the membership list.

Stewardship:

Dixie reported on the loon survey activity for this summer of 2018.

Loon monitors from these lake areas participated:

Northwest

Southwest

Central

Northeast

Southeast

Numbers reported were almost the same as numbers from 2017. There was one nest sighting with one surviving juvenile. The population seems to be stable. Bird Studies Canada questions the suitability of Basswood for loon reproduction, categorizing it as an oligotrophic lake-- deep, cold, nutrient poor, clear water, sparse vegetation, preponderance of rocky shoreline, etc. It seems to be a great staging lake for fall migration with over 50 loons reported gathering in the SE area of the lake in late August/early September. It was agreed that the survey will continue into the next year, an editorial comment was made that as the BBLA deals with technical issues such as septic inspections, reports on caterpillar invasions, etc, the value of the organization is enhanced also by photo contests, loon surveys, history presentations etc.

History:

Nancy has done many interviews and gleaned a lot of information about the history of BBL and surrounding area. Discussion focused on what to do with the information and how to share it. Facebook does not seem like a good way but to designate history as an area of interest on the updated website might be a start. Will Samis sent a note that he wants to put a museum in the barn and that might be a place to contribute historical information and items. There will be a presentation on October 14 in the barn on "The Ship Nancy". The board agrees to continue to support history sessions but wants to encourage presentations be presented in the summer when more people are in the area. It was moved and seconded that we buy a video recorder for history presentation preservation. John Kasch will be consulted for a recommendation for what device to purchase.

Larry has had good feedback on the AGM and the Sweet Sowerby Social. The Photo Contest was a big draw. There has been no negative feedback and no changes were recommended for format change. The board agreed to hold the photo contest every other year.

Phil suggested a possible essay contest for historical entries—or for other lake related subjects. There are still a number of calendars to be sold and comments made were that people don't display wall calendars as much as they used to. Other suggestions were to sell note cards with winning photos, posters with all the photos, etc. The discussion was tabled and a possible new picture format will be discussed in the spring.

There was no new update on the Bill Phillips site and it will be addressed as part of the septic inspection program.

Larry reported that the “chatter” regarding the Thessalon First Nation Boundary Claim has eased off and that he will continue to dialog with Mark Richard over the issues.

John Kasch has started to investigate what type of media to use for a new and updated website for BBLA.

Marilyn, Maeve, Larry and Debbie Tonelli met with Tulloch Engineering and the project manager, Marshall Thompson to discuss implementation of the Trillium Grant award of \$57,100.00. Properties must be in heavy use for the inspections to be useful. Appointments will be made for inspections. Debbie will provide the data base and she will work with Beverly Eagleson to complete this by Dec. 1, 2018. June 20, 2019 is the targeted date to begin inspections. Algoma Public Health has the authority to inspect properties if access is refused by property owner. Commercial establishments such as Melwel Lodge, Basswood Camp, Dehlers Camp on Boyle's Bay are under inspection by the MOE.

Lake Operating Plan. Residents have asked the MNR for years about the dam plan. They have been told that replacing the dam is on “the list” for next year. They also say that they will come out in the spring to answer questions about lake fish monitoring procedures.

Newsletter report assignments were made and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Dixie Olmstead