Minutes of the August 16, 2014

Barlow Lake Association Meeting

The August 2014 Barlow Lake Association meeting was called to order by Vice president Mike Cunningham at 9:05 AM with 21 homeowners and officers present.

Current Officers and Area Captains were introduced. Karin Denman from YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin and Sgt. Julie Jones of the Barry County Sheriff’s Department Marine Patrol were welcomed.

Sergeant Julie Jones and Deputy Bill Johnson of the Barry County Sheriffs dept. Marine Patrol were invited to attend the meeting to discuss boater safety and answer questions from the Lake Association members. Questions asked pertained to the Boater Safety Card requirement, skiing without an observer, life jacket requirements, and the requirement that boats are not to navigate within 100’ of a dock or structure. Julie also informed us of the Boater Safety Class which is held the last Saturday of June at Shady Shores. Julie provided an information sheet on “the 10 Most Common Marine Violations” and the Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities.” Julie reminded the members that if reckless boating is seen, call 911 and if possible provide the MC number on the boat.

**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the June 7, 2014 Lake Association meeting were read.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Don Visser gave the financial report noting that dues receipts are ahead of last year’s with a 67% participation rate. Extra donations for the Fish Fund are ahead of last year’s amount while the Fireworks Fund donations are a little behind last year’s amount.

**Fireworks**

The 2014 Fireworks were discussed and received positive comments. Also, having a set time to start was appreciated. It was discussed that starting the fireworks 15 minutes earlier at 10:15pm would be preferred. The day for the 2015 Fireworks was discussed and several options were determined – 1st choice is on Saturday, July 4th depending on availability of the fireworks technician. Friday July 3rd would be acceptable as the 2nd choice. Rain date will be Sunday, July 5th. Our 1st choice of July 4th will probably not be possible due to the demand for this day. Earl Krol will contact the fireworks provider and let us know if the date will be the 4th or the 3rd. The cost will remain the same as 2014 at $6500 for the fireworks and $200 to the pyro-technician for the music portion.

**Boat Parade**

The 2014 Boat Parade received many nice compliments. The 2015 Boat Parade will be held on Saturday, July 4th. Everyone was encouraged to participate in the parade if possible.

**YMCA/Association 2014 Picnic**

The picnic was held on August 2nd from 3 to 6 PM, with food at 5 PM. 149 lake residents attended (94 adults and 55 children) and a great time was had by all.

Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed the activities that were available and also enjoyed the delicious food. August 1, 2015 has preliminarily been set as the date for the Y Camp Picnic next year. It was discussed that at the start of the dinner, possibly a short welcome presentation and perhaps the fishing contest awards could be presented. Kristy Williamson was thanked for her help at the registration desk. The Lake Association members thanked Karin Denman from the Y Camp and it was decided that a donation in the amount of $500 would be made to the Y Camp in appreciation.

**Fish Program**

Mike Hoekstra provided a list of the current record holders in the 2014 fishing contest. The contest closes on Labor Day. It was decided that Mike H. would request the DNR allow us to plant 1000 Walleye again this year. Mike will obtain the permits and let us know the planting date. Mike also said that providing a picture of a fish with a ruler next to it will suffice as proof for the fishing contest if he is not available.

**Newsletter**

The next newsletter will be distributed near Labor Day. Articles, pictures, ideas all appreciated.

**Milfoil Update**

The weed control program is ongoing and members reminded not to cut the Milfoil if seen but to report it to Tony Groves.

**Old Business**

The area signs will be repaired beginning this winter. One sign in Area 4 has recently been taken down and its whereabouts are unknown.

**New Business**

The laminated poster with boater safety information will hopefully be distributed with the fall newsletter.

Marvin Helder from Area 3 reported that he was in the process of circulating a petition in Area 3 to measure the amount of support that exists to take action to confirm/establish that the Area 3 (Roseland Park plat) “alleys” are private. It was reported that some realtors are advertising properties not on the lake as having access to the lake via the Area 3 “alleys”. The “alley” at the end of Shaw Lake Rd. is the main focus of this issue.

**Member Comments**

Topics discussed included a request to not rake leaves and grass clippings into the lake.

Following the group discussion, the meeting was closed at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary - Barb Cunningham