Minutes of the August 20, 2016

Barlow Lake Association Meeting

The August 2016 Barlow Lake Association meeting was called to order by Mike Cunningham with 16 homeowners and 3 officers present.

Current Officers and homeowners in attendance were introduced and event volunteers recognized.

**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the June 4, 2016 Lake Association meeting were provided to those in attendance. Barb Cunningham also mentioned that approximately a dozen pieces of mail have been returned with improper addresses and asked the members in attendance to review and provide updated information if known.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Don Visser gave the Financial Report noting that to date; income from dues is down about $1000 from last year at this time. Expenses remain about the same as last year.

**Fireworks**

The 2016 Fireworks were discussed and received great comments. July 4th 2017 will be a Tuesday next year. The day to have fireworks was discussed and the preference was for the 2017 fireworks to be held on Saturday, July 1st at 10:15PM with a raindate of July 8th at 10:15. Earl Krol will be contacted to learn of our date preference and so that he can make the arrangements.

**Boat Parade**

The 2016 Boat Parade received many nice compliments. The theme was Patriotic and also Era’s (50’s, 60’s. 70’s.) Next year’s boat parade is tentatively set for Saturday, July 1st at 2PM. The theme will be Patriotic plus a second theme yet to be determined. All are encouraged to participate in this fun event.

**YMCA/Association 2016 Picnic**

The picnic was held on August 6th from 4 to 7 PM, with food at 6 PM. 194 people (117 adults and 77 kids) attended and had a great time. A special thank you to Donna Cook and Deb Mousseau for handling the registration table during the event. Everyone had a wonderful time and enjoyed the activities that were available and also enjoyed the delicious food. It was decided that a donation in the amount of $500 would be made again this year to the Y Camp in appreciation.

**Fish Program**

Mike Hoekstra was not able to attend the meeting but did inform us that 500 Walleye would be planted in the lake this year. Mike noted that the DNR Powerpoint presentation that was given at the spring meeting would be available on the website. The fishing contest continues until Labor Day and all were encouraged to turn in their fish catch information to Mike Hoekstra.

**Newsletter**

The next newsletter will be distributed near Labor Day. Articles, pictures, ideas are all appreciated. The Directory Addendum will be in the newsletter noting changes made since the spring publication. It was noted that Area Captains are needed in Area 5 to help distribute the newsletter.

**Milfoil Update**

The weed control program continues for Eruasican Milfoil and Starry Stonewart. The Lake Association has been informed of an invasive plant, Purple Loosestrife that thrives in wetland and lake shorelines. Information was given to those in attendance. Discussion followed and it was generally agreed that this plant is not a threat to Barlow Lake.

**2015 Water Sample Results**

Mike reported that the water quality on Barlow Lake remains good. The lake is monitored weekly for it’ water quality by Mike Cunningham. Mike mentioned that he would welcome anyone interested in getting involved in the water quality testing.

**Old Business**

Copies of the Boater Safety Poster that was printed last year are still available if anyone did not receive their copy.

**New Business**

Mike mentioned that Boater Safety classes are held locally in the spring each year and are also available online. Most operators younger than their late 30’s must have a Safety Certificate on board.

Mike also reported that the Lake Association Officer positions are currently filled but future officers will be needed and welcomed.

A DEQ Public Hearing date has been set for August 30th, 6PM for the application to dredge by a property owner at the south end of the lake. The meeting will be at the Yankee Springs Township Hall and all are encouraged to attend.

**Member Comments**

Topics discussed:

-Wave boats coming too close to shore and to other boats, especially small fishing boats.

-Shoreline erosion, especially in the Narrows given the low lake water levels and large waves.

-Shaw Lake Road access problems

-The need to de-winterize boats before launching to keep antifreeze out of the lake.

-Low lake levels.

Following the group discussion, the meeting was closed at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Cunningham