

BLCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2024 PALMER TOWN HALL

Present: Shelly Alger-Peyton. President

Robin Uchanski, Treasurer

Adele Munsterman, Secretary

Bre Bauerly, Brad Kipp, Margie McCauley, Rosalie Musachio, Brad Thom

Absent: Dave Maiers, Tom Nordin, Ruth Thom

Guests: Dave Bokelman, Nancy Hahn, Tom Hahn, Don Haus, Christy Laudenbach, Steve Laudenbach, Walt Munsterman, Scott Ruitter, Kurt Schlangen, Richard Vosika

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 A.M. by BLCA President Shelly Alger-Peyton.

Motion made and Seconded to adopt the proposed agenda. Motion passed.

Motion made and Seconded to accept the minutes from the June 7 2024 meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Treasurer Robin Uchanski reported that membership payments (\$40) continue to trickle in. July expenses included \$10,000 for fireworks (approximately half of that amount was covered by donations), and \$2,000 for fish stocking (included in the 2024 budget). The budget will be discussed by the Board at its August meeting and presented at the General Membership meeting on the same day. An Ad Hoc committee will meet in July to put together a budget proposal.

Results of the July 6 Boat Parade: Six boats competed on Briggs Lake and three on Big Elk Lake. \$175 will be given to each of the First Place winners and \$50 to the Second Place winners.

Motion made and seconded to accept the financial report, as submitted:
Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Total membership now numbers 217. Shelly encouraged everyone to work toward 300. There are many new residents in the area, and Welcome Walker folders are available for Board members to give them.

Social Media: Facebook: 4500+ users are registered, to-date. Reminder: You must be a paid BLCA member to be able to advertise on the site. Notifications about such things as High Water/No Wake are posted on Facebook.

Web site: Bre Bauerly is working to improve the Home Page by adding tabs for links to committees, BLCA Board meeting minutes, etc. She will continue to post updates, pics, and events.

Communications: Photos and articles for the August newsletter are due to Brad Kipp by July 26. Five hundred fifty (550) newsletters are sent out online each month.

Palmer Directory: Thank you to the volunteers who helped distribute the directories to residents in the Palmer area. Extra copies have been placed in the Palmer General Store & Palmer Townhall.

Sunshine Chair: Please send an Email message to Adele Munsterman if a greeting card needs to be sent to a BLCA member in the case of illness or a death in the family. Thank-you notes were sent to the guest speakers/presenters from the June meeting, as well as to the owners of the Palmer General Store for the ice cream coupons they donated.

TLID (Three Lakes Improvement District)

The TLID meets at 6:00 P.M. at Palmer Town Hall on the first Monday of each month. There is presently one Board seat open. You are invited to fill out an application online, if interested. The TLID Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, August 17, at Palmer Town Hall.

Scott Ruiten reported that he is growing purple loose strife in pots, and that he has introduced the Galerucella beetles (provided by Sherburne Soil and Water) that will eat the invasive plant as a form of AIS control. He is doing this as an experiment before it is tried in any of the lakes.

COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations)

Shelly-Alger-Peyton will attend the next Executive Board meeting of the COLA, scheduled for Wednesday, July 17.

The Rum River/Mississippi Watershed 10-year plan is done and has been posted on-line for review.

Several questions were asked about the weed spraying that was done on the Briggs Lake Chain this spring. The DNR determines when the spraying can be done. Only 10% of a lake can be sprayed, and only once per year. Due to the unusual weather this spring, the spraying was done earlier than in past years.

Gary Anderson has applied for grants for surveys and the spraying for Curly Pond Leaf and Eurasian Milfoil on Elk Lake. \$2,000 in grant money was received this year.

Discussion of algae clogging boat motors on the channel between Briggs Lake and Lake Julia. There were many questions about how a weed skimmer might work in the Briggs Lake Chain. It would seem to be cost-prohibitive at this time.

Healthy Lakes:

Bre Bauerly raised the idea of purchasing boat key floats that could be given to BLCA members. The price is \$325 for 250 units. No decision was made.

There will be NO Youth Day paddle event this summer.

The shoreline guides that were ordered are here. The Lake Steward signs and training materials and “quiz” that were ordered have also arrived. Bre, Ruth and Naomi will do a run-through before the program gets started. Ruth will post the “quiz” that must be taken

online before applying to participate in the new program.

Gentle Footprints: One shoreline restoration project was recently completed on Lake Julia.

There is \$600 remaining in the Plant Bank. Any member of the BLCA may apply on the BLCA website for \$200 to be used for such things as a pollinator kit or native plant plugs.

Water Testing: Samples were taken last week and will continue to be taken every other Tuesday throughout the summer.

Big Elk Park: No meetings of the committee overseeing the development of the park have been scheduled over the summer. Go visit the park!

OLD BUSINESS:

1. A Chairperson is needed to coordinate and revive the Neighborhood Watch program. Let Shelly know if you are interested.
2. Discussion of design/format of a SLOW/NO WAKE sign to publicize the township ordinance. They will be 2-sided yellow or orange with black lettering in cooragated plastic. Fourteen signs will be needed, at \$25 each. The decision to purchase them was tabled until the August meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. National Night Out/Neighborhood Watch Picnics, Tuesday, August 6
2. **Briggs Lake Chain General Membership Meeting**, Saturday, August 10, 10:00 A.M., following the Board meeting at 8:30. Guest speaker TBD. Treasurer and Secretary positions will both be open. Give your name to Shelly Alger-Peyton if you would like to be considered. Refreshments will be served.
3. **Palmer Day**, Saturday, September 7, Parade at noon. Volunteers will be needed to work at the BLCA food booth. Please use Sign-Up Genius on our web site to volunteer for a shift. Helpers will also be needed on Friday evening for set-up. Shelly Alger-Peyton and Lyf Titcomb are the Co-Chairs of the BLCA food booth. Let Brad Kipp know if you are interested in working on an idea for a BLCA float.
4. Brad and Ruth Thom will serve as the Co-chairs of the fall Highway 25 Clean-up. Date TBD.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Adele Munsterman, BLCA Secretary

BLCA UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

August 5: Meeting of the TLID, Palmer Town Hall, 6:00 P.M.

August 6: National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch Picnics

August 8: Healthy Lakes, Palmer Town Hall, 6:30 P.M.

August 10: BLCA Board Meeting, 8:30 A.M., followed by the General Membership Meeting at 10:00, Palmer Town Hall

August 17: TLID Annual Meeting, Palmer Town Hall

September 7: Palmer Day