

BIG ARBOR VITAE LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 28, 2017 12:30 PM AT THE AV TOWN HALL

Larry Stein called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM.

Board Members present: Larry Stein, Dave Deininger, Don Wallace, Mary Lou Shepski, Rudy Becker, Steve Scheible, Tori Kluess and Neal Kania.

Secretary Report: Mary Lou read highlights of the 2016 annual meeting minutes. Pam Scheible moved and Neal Kania seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried. Full content can be viewed on website.

Treasurer Report: Larry read the financial report prepared by Darcey Nicklaus (not present). See budget handout.

Vice President Report: Dave Deininger has reviewed our by-laws and several housekeeping changes were made. See by-laws on website for details. Dave also presented the Don and Nance Wallace Award to Bill Andrews and his sons for outstanding service to our association in 2016.

President Report: **Healthy Lake Initiative – see handout.** There are 5 different improvements that can be made to our lake property through this plan. The board of directors will decide how to administer this initiative to become part of our lake management plan. The grant application for this project must be sent in by **February 1, 2018.**

Beaver Dam: Bill Andrews and sons will continue to monitor beaver dams. Bill stated that right now the passage way is clear and open. They will be taking out debris later this summer. Larry stated that we have a trapper who is willing to trap beaver on our lake at no charge. Don Wallace asked for a round of applause for Bill and his sons.

Clean Boats/Clean Water Report: Pam Scheible stated that all students were invited to the picnic. She and Larry attended the training session again this year. See our website for CB/CW link. Volunteers at the boat landing have towels and ice packs to give to fishermen. We need 107 hours of volunteer time. So far Ken Shepski, Larry Stein, Deb McFadden, Rudy and Jeanne Becker and Bill and Terry Andrews have volunteered their time for this year.

Citizen Lake Monitoring: Pam and Steve continue to monitor the lake taking readings of water temperature and other valuable data. The DNR has checked the test area and readings are true and good.

Fundraising: Steve Scheible stated we have 3 business sponsors: River Valley, BP and Pukall. Wild Boar, Puess Pub and Four Seasons Restaurant have sold our merchandise.

Fisheries: DNR creel count – see handout for 2014-2015. 470 walleye were taken by spearing this spring (2017). This is ½ of what was taken in 2016.

Membership: Neal Kania he would like to go house to house to canvass for new members.

Social: Picnic after meeting today. Larry asked by show of hands who would like picnic the same day as the annual meeting. All attending the meeting today would like both events on the same day.

Glen Speich, president of Little Arbor Vitae Lake Association was in attendance. He spoke about the **Healthy Lake Initiative**. The process to apply for this grant is long and time consuming. There is in-kind labor involved to help defray costs. The board will decide how to run this project.

John Ritter – Speaker: Founder of Wisconsin Shoreline Initiative (non-partisan) and President of the Plum Lake Association was our speaker. Wisconsin Act 55 repealed the county rights to legislate laws and rules for lake and lakeshore activity. The state laws regarding lakes and shoreline are not as strict as the counties. John told us some of the things that will be allowed if Act 55 stays in place. Dredging is a very important issue. Land owners would be allowed to dredge the lake shore in front of their property to create a sand beach while destroying walleye habitat. We also lose the ability to classify our lakes. John founded this initiative to impress on legislators the important of local ordinances and laws. **See handout.** Mary Panzer (R) is the lobbyist for the initiative. The DNR supports this effort but they have been reduced in size. Our association board of directors will decide if we will become members of this group and if we will support it monetarily.

Good of the Order: It was asked if we get help from conservation clubs. We do not. **We need to find out the names of these clubs.**

Bill Hess motioned and Randy Kluess seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Lou Shepski,

Secretary of Big Arbor Vitae Lake Association