

BMLA Meeting Minutes 3/2/2021 zoom meeting

Attendees: Rich Halvorsen, Jim Zawacki, Linda Zawacki, Brian Livingston, Barb Fischer, Julie Mickelberg, Kathy Nevins

The agenda items with discussion as follows:

Minutes 8-30-20 meeting – Motion to Approve Barb, Second by Julie, all in favor.

MN DNR 2021 AIS Control Grant – the RFP was submitted 2/26/21 by Rich and Brian. They indicate they have done all we can for now. There are stipulations if rewarded – need third party to survey. Nicole thinks it's possible we may not find anything, as the chemical used can work for two years. We would need to pick a surveyor to perform that aspect of the work. We can still use the company who treated it last year for treatment, but can't be the same company as the surveyor. Permits are submitted to do the work. They don't expect to receive a large dollar amount, may only award a small amount. The survey will be completed in late June. They are unsure of the award date, but will follow this. Rich will drop a note to COLA to try to find a surveyor in the event the Grant is awarded. **Update:** Rich found out other lakes have used RMB Environmental Labs for AIS surveys, they have an office in Detroit Lakes. Rich contacted them, estimate <\$2500 including a larger area downwind from our infestation last year with just a small mileage savings of \$33 by grouping with Bad Axe.

HC COLA Grant due 3-31-21 – Rich will address this with Sharon. UPDATE: this deadline has been extended to 4/15/2021. Rich reviewed it and discussed with Brian – they don't see a direct application for BMLA.

Treasurers Report – Linda sent Year End 2020 General Fund (checking), Loon Report, AIS Fund (Money Market), and the Treasurer's Summary Report to the Board on 1/27/2021.

As of 3/1/21 fund balances are as follows:

General fund checking - \$18,993.13 (\$5166.18 of this is dedicated to the Loon fund)
AIS fund money market - \$24,334.00

Projected Expenses include:

The looners have expressed that they want to buy a new nest and supplies budgeted at \$2000. AIS funds received from 62 landowners via email fund drive. \$17,237.50 and \$13,038 paid to county in January for 2021 additional inspection hours.

Membership numbers- 81 memberships for 2021 from the fall campaign. There are 138 unique property owners on Mantrap Lake.

Discussion around moving both drives (AIS and membership) to the Spring vs busy holiday season – seems to be off from our calendar year due to the expenses particularly for AIS as it is very heavy in January for the upcoming year. We discussed separating the AIS drive from the membership drive. Loon donations seem to come in all year long. Motion by Julie to hold the AIS fund drive in the fall from Sept-Dec, and the membership drive in the spring from January through May. A standard form including membership, AIS, and loon fund will be included with all mailings – email or postal. This was seconded by Rich, In favor 6, Opposed 1 who felt that it stretched it out too long. Motion carried.

E-payments discussion. Linda and Rich tried a couple things, fees of 8% were deemed to be too high. Options discussed include Pay pal, venmo, ACH, square. ACH is currently available to anyone who

wants to use it, they just need to contact Linda for banking information. Motion by Rich that we will set up a pay pal account so the option is available to anyone who wants to pay their contributions electronically. We will add the fee to pay pal option. This is seconded by Brian. All in favor 7, motion carried. Linda will set up pay pal. **Update:** Linda set up the pay pal account. Julie successfully used it! The cost is 2.2% + \$0.30 per transaction. Suggestion from Linda to charge \$26 annual membership for those paying through Pay Pal.

BMLA By-Laws – Jim has been working on updating these and we reviewed the current draft from 1/21/21 with the following changes:

Contact address – remove.

4.1 – good as is

4.3 Registration – voting rights – one vote per member property with shoreline.

Shall change to will throughout

5.3 Meeting notice – change to 14 days in advance

5.6 Leave as is

6.3 – change to minimum of 5 directors, max of 8

6.4 – tenure – leave as is

Article 8 - \$100 expense. Gift – upon board approval. \$100 donation ok

Article 10 – audit, informal audit by other members in the past. Books are open to board or members

We will announce to the membership, and have a paragraph of explanation. We will send out the current draft with an email and postal as needed and vote on it at the Summer meeting. We will again include a Registration/membership form with it.

Update: Jim updated the Bylaws and sent Draft #3 to board members for review. Send him updates or corrections by 3/15.

Open board seat – Shawn McCardle is interested, will invite him to come to the Spring meeting.

Review 2020/2021 Goals – these were updated, merged to 2021 goals.

Looners recognition – this came up as a new goal with discussion around how to recognize the dedication and commitment from this group. The loons are very important to Big Mantrap and make our lake unique and beautiful. Suggestions of a plaque at the landing or name tags for each loon raft.

Update: Linda reached out to Barry Guptill, the current lead of the Looners. Rich is leaning toward the plaque at the launch, thinks the name plates could be considered next year. Support from Julie on the plaque at the landing as it would emphasize the loons to those coming onto the lake. Zawacki's suggested a celebratory event with snacks and try to get a picture to the local papers. Also suggested maybe getting a picture of a loon on a nest on the plaque. Rich is working with a monument company on quoting the plaque cost.

Schedule Summer 2021 meeting dates:

Board Meeting May 2 – 2 pm Nevins and zoom

Tentative 6/12 4 pm – Conservation Club? Emmaville? **Update:** Rich talked to Kristina at Emmaville and they'd be happy to host.

Tentative 8/14 4 pm – try to have at a residence

Other items from Rich following the meeting:

He will be learning the Channel buoy placement this spring and be the "owner" of this biannual task.

Suggested a contest predicting the date of Ice-Out. Emmaville may be able to donate a gift card.

Target date for the next Aerie?