

Butternut/Schnur Lake Association

Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting held on October 21, 2021 at Bobber's on the Lake. Called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Roll Call: Doug Mueller, Vic Peth, Skip Sommerfeldt, Rudy Rott, Dennis Stemen, Dan Patenaude, Scott Stenger, Eric Scharp. Absent/Excused: Ron Schmidt. Also in attendance were Marshall and Shirley Venz (residents on Butternut Lake).

Minutes: Reviewed minutes from August 8, 2021 meeting. Motion to approve, 2nd, and passed. Board consensus was to post the DRAFT minutes from the annual meeting on our Facebook page, take comments, and then vote to approve them at next year's annual meeting.

Treasurers Report: Doug had a spreadsheet with the treasure's report. The BSLA savings balance was \$4,141.95 and the checking balance was \$4,183.93, for a combined balance of \$8,325.88. Motion to approve, 2nd, and passed. Also, Doug will project income for 2021 and what expenses we may have – and then determine how much spending we need to do to minimize our tax burden.

Old Business

Invasive Species: Some follow-up discussion after the Scott Caven (Ashland Co. Aquatic Invasive Species coordinator) AIS Presentation on Oct. 14 at Rudy's garage. Scott C. said we could get 4 more water quality test kits (split between Butternut and Schnurs lakes), do some formal testing and reporting (about 3 to 4 times per year), and do vegetation surveys. Skip offered to help Rudy with the plant/animal invasive surveys on Butternut (and Schnurs as well). Vic will stay in contact with Mr. Caven to see how to proceed with eradication if invasive abundances are found. Mr. Caven also said that he could provide additional AIS signage, invasive species removal stations, and recommended treatment methods for property owners to help in control. Rudy will continue to check into these things.

Slow No-Wake Issue - Update: Skip had updated rainfall and water level measurements, and Vic provided a handout of them with the measurements in chronological order. Overall, it has been a generally dry year and lake levels have been slightly below normal lake elevations. Based on Skip and Rudy's measurements, they will work together to determine what a "Flood" level (elevation) may be and report the results at the next meeting. Also discussed were grant possibilities, and everyone seemed to be in favor of funding additional water patrols.

Fish Stocking: Skip reported that Mama's Fish Hatchery is ready to stock the 300 walleye fingerlings in Schnur Lake. Skip and Dennis will contact them to set up the stocking date and time. Some discussion on a response to the DNR biologist's forage response – but we felt that could be a very long discussion. Consensus was to hold off on additional crappie stocking in Butternut for the immediate future and discuss the topic again next year. Also discussion on how to improve forage and food resources on both Butternut and Schnurs lakes. A motion was made to spend up to \$500 on forage and/or fish food to help increase panfish size in both lakes. Motion was 2nded and approved. Skip will look into the various options for increasing panfish size.

By-laws Review: Quite a bit of discussion on changes to the by-laws (goals, wording, working address, etc.) – consensus was that it is too big of a topic to finalize now and a special meeting will be held to re-do the by-laws. Scott S. will chair a committee to re-view and re-write the by-laws, and look into becoming a 5013C organization.

New Business

Scott's Ideas (newsletter, BSLA poster and brochure revision, insurance for BSLA board):

Everyone thought a bi-annual newsletter was a good idea and it could be left at the resorts and/or distributed to local residences. Use bullet points of our activities and include pictures to

keep/generate interest. It could possibly also be combined with the brochure and/or poster? Scott S. volunteered to look into and coordinate the effort to set the newsletter up. Insurance (liability?) for the BSLA board was also discussed and Dan volunteered to check on this issue with the Wisconsin Lakes Association.

Tax Status and Filing for 2021: After a rather large tax bill last year, a bit of discussion on how to reduce the tax burden? Consensus was that we need to increase spending and reduce “profits” (we used to spend quite a bit on our fish crib building project each year). All were asked to come up with ideas for the next meeting that we could use to even out our income and expenses. Some initial ideas included bigger raffle prizes for the ice fisheree, marker buoys and better anchoring, hire a snowmobile groomer for a cross-country ski trail on the lake. A motion was made to spend up to \$1000 on raffle prizes, which could include an ION electric ice auger (\$500) and various gift cards from local businesses. Motioned was 2nded and passed on a voice vote.

Thank You Card: All board members signed a thank you card to Frank Derezinski for providing funds for refreshments for the board members at these board meetings. Thank You Frank!

Election of Officers: According to the by-laws, the President and Vice President are up for vote in even-numbered years, and the Secretary and Treasurer in odd-numbered years. Doug wanted to back off on Treasurer duties and Skip was approved to gradually take over that position. Rudy was approved as the new Secretary.

Next Meeting Date: Next meeting will be on Thursday December 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm at Bobber’s on the Lake.

Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Skip Sommerfeldt, Secretary