**Butternut/Schnur Lake Association**

**Annual Meeting Minutes**

**The meeting was held on September 5, 2015 at 12:00 noon at the American Legion Hall in the City of Park Falls, Wisconsin. Meeting was called to order at 12:08PM.**

**Board Member Roll Call:** Dave Schmidt, Patty Flora, Dennis Stemen, Randy Miller, John Halser and Skip Smmerfeldt. Excused absences: Ron Schmidt and Doug Mueller.

**Other Association Members** present included the following: Bill Trost; Bob & Linda Kopish; Ellen Biertzer; Frank and Judy Derezinski; Scott and Karen Vertesch; Rich Murphy and Rick Flora.

**Meeting agenda** was distributed. A motion to approve was made by Bill Trost, seconded by John Hasler to approve as presented. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the last annual meeting, which was held on September 6, 2014 were distributed. Motion by Bob Kopish, second by Dennis Stemen to approve as presented. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**Treasurers Report** was presented. The reported reflected a balance in checking and savings as of September 1, 2015 of: $6,460.00. There was one amendment to the report and that was to change the date at the top of the report from September 1, 2015 showing a balance of: $1,464.00 to September 1, 2014. Motion to approve as amended was made by Bill Traus, seconded by Dave Schmidt. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**Old Business:**

Clean Boat Check: The clean boat check report was presented by board members Dave Schmidt and John Hasler. There was concern from the members present of the individuals who are renting jet skis and using them on the lake not being aware of the boating regulations. It was suggested that the businesses who rent these units be encouraged to distribute the Wisconsin Boating Laws booklet. It was pointed out that although the information can be given, no one can make the individuals read the literature they are being given.

B.S.L.A. Website: Board member Dennis Stemen reported on the activity of the association website and share handouts that included photos that are posted on the website. He also indicated he checked into having a more ‘interactive’ website, but the cost would be $2,000 annually vs. the $200 we are paying. General membership praised Dennis for the work he has done to date with the site and information posted within.

B.S.L.A. Brochures: Board member Patty Flora reported on the process used to develop the brochures and invited any comments, suggestion and feedback. Comments were all favorable, but the suggestion was made to make sure these are being handed out at St. Croix Retail store and the area bait shops.

**New Business:**

Fish Stocking: Board member Randy Miller reported that he continues to work with Kayleb Fish Hatchery in Hayward for this years re-stocking. We are in the final year of the walleye stocking plan at Schnur’s Lake. Stocking of pan fish and walleye will continue on Butternut Lake this year also. A specific date for this event has not been scheduled, but will be announced and posted on the website once set as volunteers are needed to assist with this project.

Crib Building: Board member Skip Sommerfeldt reported that since 1976, 236 cribs have been built and placed on Butternut Lake. This project was originally started and maintained by the Department of Natural Resources, but once they lost their youth initiative, the association assumed responsibility for this project. A five year plan for crib placement has been developed with the D.N.R. and permits are done for the next two years. The only question raised by the audience was with regard to the depth of the cribs.

Fisheree: President Dave Schmidt reported to the group on the annual fisheree and its results. The next fisheree was announced and that volunteers are welcome and invited to assist. Different advertising avenues were announced as was the fact that door prize donations were sought instead of simply being purchased by the association. We received a great response from the local and surrounding businesses. A discussion as held as to possible ‘catch and release’ for events in the future and the board will continue to work on that possibility.

Elections: Four positions are vacant, including those of existing board members John Halser; Randy Miller; Dennis Stemen and Ron Schmidt. Despite other board member encouragement, John Halser declined nomination. Dennis Stemen nominated Victor Peth to the ballot. Skip nominated Frank Derezinski. Nominations were also made for Randy Miller, Dennis Stemen and Ron Schmidt. Because the by-laws allowed for a total of nine members, a voice vote was conducted with approval for all five individuals nominated by unanimous roll call vote.

**Other Business:**

Questions were raised by the members as to how the membership drive was conducted. The board will be reviewing that process in the future.

A suggestion was made to have election-type signs announcing the associations’ website posted at boat landing and other key locations around the lakes.

The membership as advised of the new bouys that were ordered and where they will be placed.

Dave Schmidt advised the board of correspondence he received regarding Wisconsin Act 55. Bob Kopisch (who in addition to being an association member also serves as a Price County Supervisor) informed the group that it is already law and we have no choice but to comply. Anyone opposed – including the board, needs to reach out to their legislators with any concerns.

Discussion was also held regarding James Meneau’s Eagle Scout project which is spray painting roadways near City of Park Falls sewer drains to educate the public that those drains flow into our local waterways including Butternut Lake. Mineau is seeking community donations to help with the cost of this project. A motion was made by Bill Trost, seconded by Karen Vertesch to donate $100 to this project. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Several residents asked about law enforcement presence on Butternut Lake. President Schmidt reported that law enforcement has been on the lake five times this year. Residents who had complaints about traffic on the lake were encouraged to contact law enforcement the time of the violations to be investigated in a timely manner.

Questions were also raised about the potential of a no wake zones on the lake where there are ongoing issues. It was reported that only the Town Board has the authority to create a ‘no-wake zone’ on the lake, not the board. Further, that the board would certainly consider any requests for support from the association if they chose to approach the town board with their request.

A question was asked as to who maintained the boat landing restrooms. The audience learned that this was the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources from Hayward.

Finally, the board asked membership to allow for an amendment of the by-laws to change the annual meeting date from the second Saturday of July. A motion was made by Bob Kopish, seconded by Karen Vertesch to grant the authority to the board to schedule the next annual meeting as appropriate. Approved by unanimous roll call vote.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at Flambeau Lanes.

Dennis Stemen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by John Hasler, unanimous roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Flora

Secretary