

Butternut/Schnur Lake Association

Annual Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2021 at Bobbers called to order at 1:00PM

Roll Call Present: Dennis Stemen, Vic Peth, Doug Mueller, Dan Patenaude, Scott Stenger, Rudy Rott

Absent: Skip Sommerfeld, Ron Schmidt, Randy Miller

There were approximately 16 people that attended the meeting in addition to the board members.

Minutes for the September 12, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

Fisheree Review

Vic explained the cancellation of the 2021 BSLA Fisheree because of Covid, and then how Bobbers picked it up with assistance from some BSLA members. Vic talked about how BSLA will keep the Fisheree raffle at this time. The raffle makes a decent amount of money.

The 2022 (BSLA former version) Fisheree will be sponsored and operated again by Bobbers on Lake.

Invasive Species

Vic explained how Scott Caven, the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Coordinator of Ashland County has not been allowed to give an indoor educational and informative presentation to the BSLA since Covid rules for the state of Wisconsin rules have not allowed. We are hoping to plan for an outdoor presentation by Scott sometime early this fall.

Vic also mentioned that when Scott did a tour of Butternut Lake sometime in the past year he did not find any problematic AIS issues.

However as a board and as members and residents of the Butternut/Schnur Lakes area we desire to be educated for both current status and also what to be looking for in the future, and how to identify the species. Example: there are both Garden Iris and Yellow Iris to learn to identify with Yellow Iris being the AIS kind.

One attendee to the meeting asked if Price County has an AIS agent. We believe not but will check into this.

Water Quality Testing

The meeting attendees were informed that Board Member Dan Patenude does and has been doing regular testing on Butternut Lake 4 times per year. Dan mentioned that Phosphorous is one of the critical tests being done.

BSLA President Vic Peth and his wife have been trained and started testing Schnur Lake this year.

The test results are posted on a DNR website. BSLA will provide a link to this site on the BSLA website in the near future.

High Water-No Wake Ordinance

In follow up to one of the hot topics of a high water event in July 2020 on Butternut Lake, Vic informed the meeting that this year we set up monitoring sites on two locations on the lake with one being on the Butternut Creek inlet bridge at Koch Landing. This site gauge is set such that it is at the bench mark elevation location on the bridge.

Skip and Rudy are also monitoring rainfall events in addition to the lake level gauges.

These pieces of information are being recorded by each and shared regularly at meetings and are available as needed.

We decided to set up these monitoring programs in order to begin to prepare to pursue a High Water No Wake Ordinance through the Town of Lake and local DNR region.

Vic Peth had written letters in 2020 to both Town of Lake and Town of Chippewa in regard to this issue, requested a discussion of such ordinance at a meeting, as both towns border Butternut Lake. We learned that Town of Lake has the most lake area frontage therefore it becomes the regulatory governing entity based on what we learned.

Scott Stenger and Rudy Rott attended (via Zoom) the meeting of agenda. Town of Lake people mostly did not really understand and desired more information. Their request made sense. This is what prompted us to set up monitoring sites.

We have also pulled High Water No Wake Ordinances from around the state to use as possible templates. We are hoping to have an Ordinance in place for some time in 2022 if indeed we can gather all the required information and get the approvals from Town of Lake and DNR.

Boating Safety and No Wake Rules

Several violations for boating operation laws and rules are observed to be violated on both Butternut Lake and Schnur Lake. These include no observing no wake operation within 100 feet of shoreline, which in a number of cases these boats are pulling skiers. These violations risk the safety of skiers in addition to possibly causing damage to lakeshore property and habitat.

There are links on the website and the Facebook to these rules.

Also, there was a lot of discussion to set up postings in the resorts and vacation rental locations.

There will be ongoing discussion and activity on this issue.

WDNR Grants

Vic talked about WDNR grants that can be made available to the BSLA if proper eligibility requirements are met. We are seeking funding to assistance with education of and treatment for AIS, in addition to grant funding for lake patrol by the approved enforcement agencies such as the DNR and the County Sheriff.

Two items of eligibility were discovered at this time: 1) Schnur does not have public access and therefore is limited and may not be eligible at all; 2) our by laws do not allow associate members to vote. Full voting rights are also required for eligibility, which at this time make Butternut Lake also not eligible.

We have some work to do here and will be put on the agenda for future meetings.

Fish Stocking

Vic informed the meeting of the Walleye stocking plan of 2021 into Schnur Lake.

Also there is currently nothing scheduled for stocking into Butternut Lake for 2021. DNR Fish Biologist feels no need to stock panfish such as Crappie. The Biologist mentioned that elevated stocking of Crappie can possibly be a predator to the walleye fry in the spring. DNR has always approved the Crappie stocking in the past and would this year but as a board we decided to halt and rethink.

A document of stocking history was made available to distribute at the meeting (same one as we had at the Brat Fry). Many people took a copy and also there was a good discussion overall.

New Business:

Musky Size Limit

It appears that the size limit will change from the current 28" minimum to 40" minimum for the 2022 season. The process is not officially finished but according to DNR sources it most likely will pass. There was a lengthy process with public meetings and public voting programs. The 28" limit was established in 2005 when the fishery seemed to be highly populated with Musky which seemed to be contributing to a decline in other game fish such as walleye, crappie and perch.

By Laws

Future review of By Laws and discussion of changes to be made will be added to future meeting agendas. This will include but not be limited to the non-voting rules for associate memberships. Right now we do not have associate memberships but not necessarily a reason to drop that. More discussion will be had.

Website and Facebook

Vic thanked Rudy Rott Jr and Beverly Rott for setting up the Facebook and taking charge of website work. Both actions have been well received and appreciated. Both methods of social media have created new connections to the members and to the area.

Membership

There seems to be a decline in membership although exact numbers are not known right now. We are conducting a complete review.

Based on the fact that there has been a fair amount of property owner changes, this is not a surprise. Some members are knocking on doors and delivering BSLA information to households around the lake. Vic is encouraging us to take every possible opportunity we can to connect and inform, recruit and educate.

This is also one of the big reasons for the First Annual Brat Fry on September 4, 2021 at Bobbers on the Lake.

Brat Fry 2021 at Bobbers on the Lake

Thanks to Scott Stenger for the idea and for putting on a lot of work to plan and prepare and advertise and recruit food and beverage to make this a solid success.

There are others to thank such as Bobbers on the Lake as the host.

We shouted out some thank yous at the meeting.

We will discuss a plan for a 2022 event if we agree to continue. There is a strong likelihood the event will have future life!

Nominations/Elections

Vic Peth, Dennis Stemen, Scott Stenger, and Randy Miller are up for re-election year.

Randy Miller decided to resign from his position.

Thank you Randy for your years of valuable service!

Eric Scharp was nominated as the new member to basically replace the position Randy held. Eric's nomination was approved and voted unanimously to the Board.

Thank you Eric and welcome to the Board.

Vic and Dennis and Scott were all nominated to be re-elected and they accepted the nomination.

They were voted unanimously to the Board.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 PM.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Rudy Rott

