

# **BASS LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**

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## **BLPOA MEETING**

### **APPROVED MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 24, 2016**

The BLPOA Meeting of September 24, 2016 was opened by President Rick Anderson at 9:00 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Officers present – Rick Anderson, Ron Vendl and Denise Evans, Directors present – Diane Andrews, Diane Blais, Aileen Collura, A.J. Gappa, Rik Ritzler and Gayle Smith. Vice President Mary Jean Topelain and Director Diane Nowaczyk were absent. There were seventeen property owners in attendance.

Rick welcomed the Property Owners and reminded everyone that the board welcomes questions and interactions from the audience during the meeting, but asks that before speaking, raise your hand, wait to be addressed and then state your name before proceeding so that the secretary can duly note your concerns. Rick then asked if there were any changes to last month's meeting minutes. Denise stated that the unedited non-approved minutes were printed and she needs to make sure all the grammatical errors and corrections regarding the bicentennial be made before the approved minutes will be posted electronically on the website. Gayle Smith motioned to accept minutes, Aileen Collura seconded that motion and the motion passed.

Ron proceeded to give the August Treasurer's Report. He stated that the building was deep cleaned prior to two full-building rentals that were coming up since that had not been done since spring. There were some miscellaneous supplies purchased this month. We also had to re-apply for our Business Entity Report for the state of Indiana. Unknown to us, the previous license expired back in 2011. Rick and Ron had signed and submitted documents, but we are still waiting for a notice of reinstatement. The balance in all accounts after all expenditures were made was \$178,313.47. Diane A. made a motion to accept the August Treasurer's Report, Diane B. seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Rick continued the meeting with the Social Committee report given by Diane A. She mentioned the Soup Social notice was sent out via the website. The Soup Social will be held on October 22, 2016 from 5-7 PM and asked that people join us for the Third Annual "Taste of Bass Lake." Gayle stated that there is a sign-up sheet for those who want to bring soup or they can contact Mary Jean if they want to participate. The soups will be judged with three categories of winners, people's, queen's (Bass Lake Festival) and president's choice (Hopefully, Rick and the Queen will be attending). There will also be a Scarecrow Contest with judging in three categories—scariest, funniest and bicentennial themes. There is a \$5.00 fee to attend and children 12 and under are free.

Gayle followed Diana A. with the details of the Bicentennial Torch relay. Gayle stated this is a historic event and special celebration. Four of the twenty handoffs for Starke County are within the Bass Lake area. Gayle stated those are—the new firehouse, Fingerhut Bakery, East Rannells

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Road, the boat launch to the Routes 10 & 35 North intersection. The four torch bearers are Gayle Smith, Carol Blastic, Susan Schricker (former Governor Henry Schricker's granddaughter) and Ron Vendl. Jerry Taylor inquired on more specifics on the torch handoffs of who and where each person will be stationed. Gayle stated that she will start at the Bass Lake Fire Station, hand off to Carol at Fingerhut, Susan will be at Rannells Road and Ron at the boat launch. The Bicentennial committee is anticipating the start at 4:30 PM. Gayle stated they are asking for the people to gather around the bakery area. Fingerhut will be open during this event until 6:00 PM and will have cookies and other items available. A map and routing of this event will be posted and is also available on the web at [indiana2016.org/torchrelay](http://indiana2016.org/torchrelay). The torch will work its way to Wythogan Park. The celebration will continue at Wythogan Park that evening from 5 to about 7:30 PM. Gayle wanted to also mention a special thank you to Rik Ritzler, Tabitha Dillner and Les Jenson for their help in planning this event.

Diane A. reported for the Beautification Committee. She stated there was nothing new, but that the pocket area of the lake is still a problem with trash. Rik R. stated that Kathy Norem brought to the county board commissioners meeting on September 6, the proposal of placing a trash receptacle in the pocket area, but the commissioners had a few problems with that idea and preferred to look for an alternative solution. Rik referred to the current Koontz Lake Property Owners and who conduct a community trash pick-up program in conjunction with the Starke County Highway Department (SCHD) and suggested BLPOA initiate the same program. Rik outlined the program for the board (included). Aileen C. stated that the BLPOA has asked for volunteers before during that weekend but only got a few people to help.

Larry Collura gave the BLCD report. He reported that Bass Lake had a record-setting 11.82 inches of rain for the month of August. He stated currently we have had 3.56 inches for September, which is normal. Larry also reported that the new weir or dam is complete and that there is currently a slow spill over still flowing through the basin. This information is posted on both the Conservancy and BLPOA websites and he urged people to visit either site to read about it. Larry also reported big news that the bond for the sewers is almost paid off and that we should be seeing the five-year plan soon for how we will be maintaining our system for the future. Costs and expenditures are on the conservancy's website along with the management and operating fees to maintain the facility and equipment. They will continue the study, but expect to be able to reduce our monthly wastewater fees going forward. They have created and simplified the fee structure which will now be based on the type of structure such as house, motorhome, garage, etc. and other structure types to determine new fees. Larry stated due to the upcoming holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, the BLCD will be meeting on November 14 and December 12. After December, the BLCD meetings will continue to be on the third Monday of the month. He also stated that he will be making updates to the BLPOA website with the change to the fall season and asked if anyone had pictures to send to him at [info@inbasslake.com](mailto:info@inbasslake.com) Larry asked if there were any questions on his report. A question was asked by Ken McCormick on the location of how and where rain is measured. Larry stated that the gauge is located at the

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BLCD building on the northwest side. Kathy Laiter stated she saw kids playing and swimming in the area of the basin at the weir/dam. She was concerned for their safety and inquired if there were any signs posted for no swimming or wading. Larry stated he would contact DNR, as the conservancy is not in charge of this area nor any postings and ask that they address this issue. Kathy Laiter also mentioned that the exit from the boat launch and the ditch next to it present a problem for some drivers when they pull out. Some boats have gotten stuck in the ditch. Rik R. stated that this had been addressed with DNR before as a safety issue. Larry stated that he will address this with DNR when he contacts them about the weir basin issue. Gayle thanked Larry for the upkeep of the website and all the changes he makes on behalf of the BLPOA.

Rick asked about a report for the Bass Lake Festival. Gayle reported for Mary Jean, stating that Mary Jean wanted to thank everyone for their participation and help, the business community and anyone else who made the event successful. Gayle stated that they will be hosting a contest for developing the new T-shirts and other events in hopes of getting more people involved.

Gayle presented the "Around the Lake" report on the Mosquito Abatement program. She stated that the CDC and the BLPOA website are in place for people to get information on the Zika virus. Gayle stated that the CDC reported that there were 3358 cases of Zika in the US as of September 21 of this year, 33 cases reported in the state of Indiana and none in Starke County. Denise Evans asked about the CDC website again because of the inquiries from the inbasslake.com website that have come regarding the Zika virus and mosquitos. Gayle stated the web address CDC.gov then Zika. Gayle also stressed that when homeowners are closing down for the season that they make sure that tarps and containers are positioned properly to not hold standing water.

Rick reported on the agenda Building Maintenance Committee. He stated that they were going to keep the previous person who did snow removal last year for this year, Tom Ames. Ron continued the report that Rick and he are gathering bids to refurbish the Blue Room similar to the Green Room.

Rick asked if Diane B. would give the Rental report. Diane stated that Diane N. was in Florida and did not pass on the data for her to present. She had nothing to report at this time.

Rick asked Ron to report on the Neighborhood Watch Committee. Ron reported that they last met on September 5 with another minimal turnout. He stated that our Deputy Sheriff was in attendance and there were twenty-two mostly minor incidents reported for the month of August. The next meeting is October 3 at 6:30 PM in the Green Room.

Rick proceeded with the Buoy report. He stated that it was time that the buoys come out for the season. Three had broken loose this year, but were quickly found, identified and returned. He asked that chains be checked and stated that two new buoys were purchased this year. One was an "Adopted Buoy" and one was a replacement. We also had eight LED lights that were donated

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by Ailish and Tom Ryan. A big “THANK YOU” to Ailish and Tom! These are low cost replacements (about \$10.00) compared to the current \$200 lights that we previously had.

Rick went to unfinished business before asking for any comments. He stated that the Park Board is considering hiring a consultant to help develop a five-year park board plan. This plan will cover dozens of Starke County-owned properties that have been designated to be managed, developed and improved by the Park Board for the betterment of the County. Rick is in strong agreement with the Park Board moving forward in this fashion. The mechanism to be used to incorporate our Park Board and Community Goals into this plan will be a series of public forum meetings chaired and coordinated by our selected and hired consultant. These meetings will be months in the future and should have good public notice. Rick encourages anyone and everyone interested in getting their input and goals for Starke County to attend these meetings.

Rick went on to New Business. He stated that the Shriner’s Building next door to the BLPOA was for sale. Based on discussions with board members, the BLPOA will not pursue purchasing it at this time.

Rick asked Rik Ritzler to present the proposed intersection changes. Rik stated that there is a safety issue at some intersections and earlier this summer the Starke County Highway Department asked the LTAP/Purdue University School of Civil Engineering to evaluate three Starke County Intersections. One of the intersections was CR600 at E CR210 at Bass Lake. They recommended replacing the current configuration with a T-intersection. At the September 6, Starke County Board of Commissioners meeting, the County Highway Superintendent suggested that the idea be presented to the BLPOA before the consultant selection/design process is initiated. It is important to the Commissioners that the Bass Lake residents get involved in this project at the beginning of the planning stage. A document was provided and is included as an attachment.

With no further business to discuss a motion was made and Diane A. that we adjourn the meeting. Aileen seconded the motion and meeting was adjourned at 10:03 AM.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 5, 2016 at 9:00 AM at the BLPOA building.

Denise Evans, Secretary