

**Big Pine Island Lake Association
Informal Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 4, 2008**

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.

Status of the sewer pump/lift breach and sewage spill in the lake was the first order of business. Susie Manikowski gave a brief update from discussion with Deb Story who was cleaning up the resulting sewage overflow in her basement. Her system is so old that it shorts out and then backs up. They didn't call the township initially, because the light on the pump station was not on.

Lou Kirkbride indicated that the township is supposed to be evaluating and prioritizing fixes of the sewer pumps based on age and level of defectiveness.

Scott Marks reported that he wrote a letter to Paul Knoerl at the township the day he read about the sewer pump failure in the Press inquiring as to why BPIL residents and board members were not notified of the sewage spill. He inquired as to who would clean up and do the necessary testing. Scott also spoke with attorney Cliff Bloom from Michigan Lake and Stream Association, who advised that we should take the township to task on this matter, demanding notification of BPIL residents and a meeting with the township, along with sewer, DEQ and Health Dept. representatives. Scott has prepared a draft letter to the township to this effect and sought the board's recommendation and approval to send. Board members agreed to proceed with sending the letter via certified mail.

Paul Mulheisen recommended that we include expectations within the letter, including a stipulation that the township pay for extra costs incurred for any testing, notification of residents, etc. Also recommended we ask for an update on the status of other pumps around the lake, and health risk concerns.

Board agreed that a letter should be sent. Scott will send his email version of the letter to Lisa Zigmont, who will draft a formal letter to be sent to the township via certified mail.

Next order of business was BPILA membership renewal. A recommendation was made to mail a renewal invoice to all lake residents. Scott Marks has proposed a template that could be used. There are approximately 300 lakefront residents with riparian rights, and approximately 200 in the weed assessment. Our previous average was about 70-80 people who usually end up as paying members of the Association. A separate invoice or collection was recommended for fireworks.

Paul Mulheisen recommended a newsletter be sent to lake residents to notify them of the membership invoice mailing. Pat Mulheisen volunteered to write the newsletter. Members recommended and agreed to a newsletter mailing, with preference of a 1 page layout. Susie Manikowski offered to design a new letterhead logo for BPILA. Members agreed to mailing the newsletter at the end of March 08, and subsequent mailing of the

Membership Renewal invoices in mid-April 08. Initial newsletter topics will be a sewage spill notice and status update, and the membership invoice mailing.

Tom Manikowski inquired as to how membership funds have been used in the past. Scott Marks advised that funds have been used for lakes monitoring fees, postage and special projects, such as goose round-up, boat parade and winter festival.

Scott Marks provided an update on the potential for holding the annual fireworks on the island. The fireworks must be held at least 750 ft. from an occupied dwelling; however the island home has been unoccupied for some time. In addition, we must have fire protection capabilities. Lou Kirkbride reported that we do have fire protection capability for the island. Scott will do further follow up on the possibility of using the island and will keep the board posted.

A question was raised as to whether we should collect a fee at public areas for the fireworks. There are concerns about safety and past violence and stabbings and Green's Landing, and the lack of potential volunteers to do the collection.

A recommendation was made to resume the lake neighborhood watch program. Members agreed and recommended that we add a notice in the membership renewal invoice to ask residents for contact information if they are interested in being on the neighborhood watch calling tree.

Tom Manikowski inquired as to some of our annual expenses. Most recently, we have paid out fees to Cooperative Lakes Monitoring for taking water samples, etc. This is an \$80 per year membership fee. We've also had some mailings, averaging approximately \$100.

Paul Mulheisen received notice of the upcoming Lake and Stream Association meeting and the need to send in our delegate and name of our association.

Pursuant to BPILA bylaws, the following subcommittees are outlined: Lake and Shore; Health and Safety; Social and Projects; and Membership and Newsletter.

Board members recommended that BPILA meetings be held once per quarter, with the next meeting to be held the end of March. Subcommittees can meet more often, as needed.

Pat Mulheisen inquired as to the association's role in reporting vacated or abandoned homes. It was reported that the township is usually the governing body to take care of this.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.