

Minutes of the May 20, 2023
Barlow Lake Association Meeting
Web Site: www.BarlowLakeMI.com

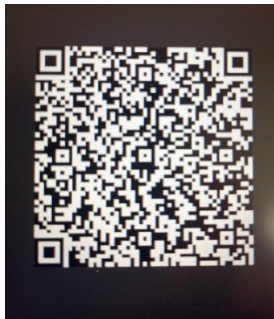
The May 20, 2023 Barlow Lake Association meeting was called to order by President, Rick Gannon with 54 Homeowners and 4 Officers present. Current Officers, Area Captains, Event Chairpersons and Volunteers were recognized.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from August 2022 Lake Association meeting were provided to those in attendance.

Treasurer's Report

Financial Reports were provided to those in attendance. Treasurer Lori Ritter overviewed the Balance Sheet Comparison, Profit and Loss Comparison and Proposed 2023 Budget. Several questions were fielded in regards to how income and expenses are allocated and a sub-committee is being formed with Denise VanderHeide, Holly Spurgess and Lori Ritter to brainstorm accounting allocations and accounts. Dues can be paid by a link to the QR code below, mailing or dropping of a check made out to Barlow Lake Association and sent to Lori Ritter 1293 Manitou Lane, Middleville 49333. A request for an electronic invoice is also available by contacting Lori.



Fireworks

Fireworks will be on ***Saturday, July 1, 2023 at 10:15 pm***. The 2022 Fireworks budget was increased to \$8,500. Night Magic, our longstanding vendor quoted \$25,000 for the 2023 show. Earl Krol and Ryan Asbury worked hard to obtain other bids and found a local contractor from Hamilton, Big Wicks LLC to handle a similar show for \$9,400. The budget short fall will be taken from the General Fund and/or dues designated to Fireworks in 2023. The fireworks industry is seeing extensive rises in material costs and product availability which then is reflected in show quotes.

Fish Program

Barlow Lake was stocked with 1,000 perch and 1,000 Walleye in the fall of 2022. Mike Moerman's Fishing Committee is looking at stocking vendors, pricing and opportunities in 2023. Stay tuned for a possible a "Fishing Day Contest" and new perimeters for the yearly Fishing Contest. Contact Mike Moerman with your name along with fish species, size and date of catch.

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Barlow Lake Newsletter:

Karen Hale is looking for members to assist with gathering news articles and photos for newsletter content. In attempt to save on increased printing costs, the Directory will be emailed to area residents. The Newsletter can also be found at www.BarlowLakeMI.com Past issues are posted on the web site as well.

Water Testing and Milfoil Update/Weed Control

Alan and Cindy Hooker take samples weekly during the summer months for water clarity and yearly for phosphorus. Weed control treatments are providing good results. The overall phosphorus level is rising due to yard fertilizer run-off. These numbers are something to monitor. The Fall 2022 Data Report can be reviewed at www.BarlowLakeMI.com under the Resource Tab. Professional Lake Management (PLM) will be on the lake this summer about 3 times to survey plant growth and 2-3 times for treatment. That treatment is covered by your property taxes through Yankee Springs Township.

Boat Parade

The theme this year is Patriotic and "Be Creative". Please connect with Joan to sign up and get a number (and how many kids will be participating for goodie bags) that will be used for voting on winner. Area Captains will be casting votes for winner and a cool custom trophy will be awarded. Of course, last minute additions are always welcome. It was also requested that no water balloons be thrown during the parade to help keep the lake clean. Cash or candy donations are welcome to help offset costs.

Welcome Committee

The Welcome committee has reached out to new families with Barlow Lake goodies and community information along with hugs and warm welcome greetings! Please let Wendy or the Welcome Committee know if you have a new neighbor!

Paddle Poker Run and Venetian Light Boat Parade

Mark your calendar for August 19, 2023. The Paddle Poker Run and Venetian Light Boat Parade are back for another go! These two fun events are coupled together to bring family and friends together to enjoy some great new events on Barlow Lake. Information will start to roll out in June for early sign ups for the Poker Run and Boats can line up in Turtle Cove around 9:30pm for the Parade. So much fun!!

Lake Buoys

Roger Offeringa discussed the new buoy at Cisler's Point to identify rocks. There are 4 buoys in place. Our existing buoys are brittle from intense sunshine and likely 1 will need replacing in the near future. State license of buoys ins in process. Be reminded not to climb, move or release the buoys...they serve an important purpose to boats and guests navigating the lake.

Y-Camp Day

Camp Director and Resident Luke Gerke shared that Y Camp day will be on August 5, 2022 from 2-5pm. Live music, snacks and slushies will be available. ***Due to liability - August 5 is the only day the inflatable toys can be used by lake residents.***

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Web Site: www.BarlowLakeMI.com

The new Association web site is up and running and LOADED with helpful information and resource tools. Check it out!

Old Business

At the August 2022 meeting a motion was made and carried to move the Association Meetings to pre-Memorial Day and post Labor Day. The next Association Meeting will be on Saturday, September 9 at 9am at the Yankee Springs Township Hall.

New Business

- * 2023 Calendar fund raiser donated about \$500 back to the association. Take photos for 2024!
- * Inquiry about interest level in having a Barlow Lake Golf Outing and possible committee.
- * 50/50 Raffle Winner was \$50 to Kristy Williamson. \$50 was donated to Association General Fund.

Member Comments

*Extensive comments and discussion about raising Association Dues from \$40 to \$75 or \$100 was discussed. Many comments were shared due to raising costs of “everything”, dues have remained at \$40 for more than 15+ years. 84% of dues were collected in 2022. Dues are voluntary and most households pay more than \$40 to help offset cost of fireworks and fish. A vote was taken and the majority of meeting attendees supported increasing 2024 dues to \$100.

* There was discussion about non-residents parking off Shaw Lake and fishing.

* Member commented about how meeting notices are published – Facebook, etc. suggestion for more notice and possible signage.

Following the group discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Wagner