

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
Beaver River Property Owners Association
Saturday, July 5, 2008 ▪ Beaver River Hotel, Beaver River Station, NY
Minutes corrected at 8/30/08 meeting.

Board members present: Carol Schoch, President; Gerry Fuerch, Kathy Partridge, Steve Edic. Absent: Bob Dickie, Don Phelps, Tom Calhoun.

Roll call: Chris Barbay, Nadine Bell, Tom Brown, Cindy Crowley, Betty Fluker, Sharon Fuerch, Carl Krombach, Al Larmann, Rich Meyer, Bob Partridge, Larry Schoch, Steve Hegge, Pete Hutchinski, Eleanor Hutchinski, Dave Urtz, Barb Weingart.

President Carol Schoch called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

1. Review/Approval of the Minutes of the May 25, 2008 meeting: delayed until end of meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report: June 30, 2008 total account balances: \$6348.02. A copy of the report is available from the Treasurer. Carol noted that the railroad insurance bill, originally estimated at \$3000 came in at \$2625 and has been paid. Motion was made to accept: unanimous.
3. Sunshine Committee report: Chair Cindy Crowley was delayed; report to be given later in the meeting.
4. No Dock Committee report, as Don Phelps was unable to attend the meeting.
5. No Access Committee report, as Tom Calhoun was unable to attend the meeting.
6. Carol reported that the medical kit has now been installed on the back (south) end of the fire barn with red cross emblems on it.
7. Assessments. Carol gave a brief history of property assessments in recent years. The Town of Webb opts for revaluation every three years. The BRPOA Assessment Committee met with the Town Assessor in the spring to discuss the increases and errors for Beaver River properties. However, due to widespread errors and other problems in the assessment of properties throughout the Town of Webb, the entire 2008 assessment was thrown out. The 2005 assessment remains in effect. The Committee will continue to monitor the situation and give updates to the membership when warranted.
8. A fire drill has been requested for this year, but the "fire drill people" (Ron Nearing and Dick Williams) were not in attendance. Possibility of a surprise fire drill at some point in the future?
9. Vehicle Removal. Residents who want to remove vehicles from Beaver River will have to bear the expense of getting the vehicle to Stillwater. However, with the increase in scrap metal prices, there is a party interested in taking possession of the vehicles once they reach Stillwater. Contact Carol for more information.
10. Arrests and Vandalism. On July 4, 2008 a complaint was called into the Town of Webb police concerning fireworks and cannons in Beaver River. The police referred the call to Ranger John Scanlon, who sent

Ranger Luke Evans to investigate. Around 7:30 pm, Luke Evans made three arrests for possession of fireworks without a permit. (Member Chris Barbay, who was in attendance at the meeting, stated that he was one of the three arrested.) The party in violation admitted to possessing the fireworks and agreed to stop setting them off. While Luke Evans was in town making the arrests, someone vandalized his boat at Grassy – cut the gas lines, stole the keys, and removed DEC and personal items from the boat. Luke Evans was understandably angry, particularly since another call had come in from someone else needing assistance on the Flow; he stated that from this point forward, all the illegal nonsense in Beaver River **will** stop. John Scanlon had to come to Beaver River to pick up Luke Evans and the boat; the NY State Troopers will be called in to investigate the destruction of government property.

Luke Evans did not feel that anyone from the Barbay group was involved in the vandalism of his boat; in fact, it might not have been anyone from Beaver River. Apparently, the Rangers had been very busy enforcing the rules and regulations at various campsites on the Flow and the guilty party could be a disgruntled camper.

However, this is not the first instance of malicious vandalism in Beaver River. In recent years:

- Gas has been stolen out of boats at Grassy Point
- A cotter pin was removed, causing the prop to fall off the motor on Carol's party barge
- ~~Ray Kirley's boat was found sinking at Grassy Point; the plug had been pulled (from the outside) and several people worked to haul it up on shore before it went to the bottom.~~ **Correction: 8/30/08. Incorrect information, remove from minutes.**
- When Ron Nearing was President of BRPOA, the windows of his vehicle were broken and later (during freezing weather) someone turned his water back on, causing a flood and 2 – 3 inches of ice inside his camp. Following this incident, Ron called the State Police and Senator Seward who worked to get funds for a police boat to allow easier access for law enforcement in Beaver River.

Carol's opinion: if the State Troopers come in, we have to look at the big picture of illegal activities that have been under the radar for many years – water lines on state land, unregistered vehicles, and ATVs - in addition to the recent incidents of illegal fireworks and vandalism. We're in a gray area. Do we want to be totally illegal [is that even an option?] or 100% legal and live with the consequences?

Carol asked Luke Evans for 24 hours in order to present the facts of this incident to the membership and to decide on a response or statement of position on the part of the BRPOA.

Discussion and comments followed: Irresponsible and illegal behavior does nothing to enhance the reputation of Beaver River in the eyes of State and other government officials. Many members brought up safety concerns related to the large numbers of young children operating ATVs and other vehicles at a high rate of speed in and around Beaver River, engaging in dangerous behavior and completely without adult supervision. Some wear helmets, but many don't. Some of the children appear to be as young as 5 or 6 years old.

Children on ATVs have been observed:

- Darting out of intersections without slowing down or checking for traffic (narrowly missing a truck in one instance)
- Going off the Partridge Island causeway into the water
- Trying to climb the steep sides of the gravel pit

In addition,

- A teenager rolled a truck last summer on the Grassy Point Road

- Someone was recently observed driving a pickup truck in excess of 30 mph on the side of the railroad tracks up toward the big culvert.

Carol stated that it's important for members to speak up when observing risky behavior, especially by children. To make her point she stopped the meeting briefly while she went outside and flagged down a young child (approximately 5 years old) on an adult-sized ATV who had zoomed past the hotel several times during the meeting.

Al Larmann stated that, in his opinion, if these sorts of irresponsible activities continue, a tragic accident is inevitable and when that happens, the authorities will have no choice but to clamp down. Given that present law states that no ATV's are allowed on Town roads, it's likely that Town officials will no longer look the other way if someone is seriously injured or killed in Beaver River.

Carol asked if the BRPOA should take an official position on the irresponsible activities in Beaver River.

It was generally agreed that attempts should be made to resolve problems in Beaver River within the Beaver River community before calling in outside authorities. If members or other property owners are annoyed with or witness illegal behavior, the first step should be to approach the party doing the activity and express concern, whether safety- or nuisance-related, or obviously illegal. Members may bring their concerns about annoying or illegal activities to the BRPOA Board for support. If attempts to resolve the issue are unsuccessful, it can and should be taken to outside law enforcement agencies.

Steve Edic moved that the BRPOA send a letter to all property owners in Beaver River (not just members), stating that we've had incidents that jeopardize the integrity of Beaver River and that the Association does not condone any illegal activity. The letter should explain that everyone has to take responsibility for his or her actions and those of their guests. The letter should also emphasize safety over legality, should include a "top 10" list of violations, state that Beaver River is still in New York State and under the jurisdiction of State and Town laws, and mention other issues of concern and courtesy such as noise and dust. Motion was seconded by Nadine Bell. In favor, 19. Opposed, 1. Steve and Kathy Partridge will draft the letter.

Sharon Fuerch questioned the wording, "does not condone any illegal activity" since Beaver River has long had a BRPOA as well as illegal water lines across state property, unregistered vehicles, etc. and suggested alternate wording of "It is the intent of the BRPOA to support the law, given our isolated situation."

11. Sunshine Committee: Cindy Crowley reported that Nadine and Nate Bell have a new baby, Connor. Rita Seamon has been hospitalized. Ray Luce's (Sleepy Hollow) brother died. Marty Simpkins has been very ill.
12. Cindy Crowley read the Minutes of the May meeting. On a motion by Sharon Fuerch, seconded by Tom Brown and unanimously approved, the minutes of the May 25 meeting were approved as submitted.
13. Audit: Christine Crowley and Steve Edic will be the auditors for 2008 and will meet with Jerry Fuerch by mid- August.
14. Final comments on the July 4 incidents from Carol: She will call Luke Evans. We will send a letter to all property owners. Everyone should please talk to five other property owners and let them know what's going on.

15. On a motion by Steve Edic, seconded by Betty Fluker and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11 am.