

Beaver Lake Yacht Club Board Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2026 @ 7:00pm at the Boelter's

Present: Rick Boelter, Suzannah Bong, Lara Ehksam, Mike Hipp, Cam Knuth, Carolyn Duris (TEAMS), Rick Stalle (TEAMS) **Absent:** Karen Trimble

Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

1. Review and Approve BLYC Board Minutes 1/12/2026

A motion was made by Mike Hipp to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Cam Knuth. All voted in favor, motion passed. *Action: Lara Ehksam will send to Jim Grinney to post on BLYC Website.*

2. Old Business:

Launch Site Improvements Status (Rick Stalle)

The excavation and redressing of the launch drive was done in December. There is still a pile of gravel in the out lot that will be removed or used after Great Lakes reevaluates if more is needed after the Winter settling.

The magnetic wire for the gate was clipped during excavation which we were pretty sure would happen. A motion detecting system was installed (ground was frozen so a trench couldn't be dug) to enable the gate to close. This will need to be reevaluated in the Spring as Rick does not think it will work as well as the magnetic wire.

Landscaping will need to be addressed. Topsoil and reseeding needs to be done around the new launch drive. Screening plants should be added on Jacques side of property and the retaining wall on the Bong side of the property is deteriorating and falling into the launch. It needs to be rebuilt.

Action: Cam and Rick Stalle will meet in the next few weeks to pass on the information on this project. Cam will work with the board on securing quotes for the above items. We hope some of this can be addressed before the launch reopens on 3/31.

Revisit BLYC Launch Site Survey Feedback and Determine 2026 Policy. (Rick Boelter)

After last month's meeting and discussion, Rick used AI to evaluate the survey results. The main points taken were that more transparency was requested and input into the decision-making process for the launch policies. The split was pretty even between allowing a very "open" launch and or shutting down all heavy equipment use. We discussed as a board and feel we are right in the middle with needing to allow the heavy equipment to use the launch for permanent piers and shoreline restoration but must also be a steward of the launch and work to limit use and wear and tear as much as possible. The fee to homeowner's is in the hope that they will use their own property whenever possible for material delivery and the fees & policies with the vendors is in hope of reducing trips and material loads on the ramp. In 2025 it did accomplish both of these things. We discussed alternative options such as tiered fees, tollway type fees, and percentage of project cost fees.

Mike Hipp is working on the vendor policies for 2026. He did update the forms. Suzannah asked if a spot on the forms could ask for a billing email. A discussion about the daily use fee for large barges was had. There is a lot of bookkeeping involved and collecting of these fees has been difficult. There are several companies who have not paid and it was questioned if this is

sustainable. The 2025 policies has prompted vendors to leave barges at the job sites. If a vendor is in arrears they won't be granted access until paid.

A motion to keep the fee structure set in 2025 for 2026 with this all being relooked at the Annual Meeting in October was made by Lara Ehksam and seconded by Rick Boelter. All voted in favor. Motion passed. *Action: Mike will add spot on form and send out to vendors with a letter explaining the policies and invoicing for those in arrears. Rick Boelter will draft a letter to the membership with the analysis of the survey results and an update on the launch policies. Lara will get survey results posted to website through Jim Grinney. Lara and Mike will update the Constant Contact and Master Lock databases with new vendor information as it comes in.*

3. New Business:

Private Road Launch Traffic Flow (Cam Knuth)

Cam presented some examples of signage for the launch to be posted at the out lot and at the gate. Vendors will be notified that they should wait at the out lot for it to be open and to check before they proceed down the one lane road. There were many instances last year of several to four barges being lined up at once at the launch blocking traffic. *Action: Cam Knuth will procure the signage. Mike Hipp will add these directions to the vendor policies.*

BLYC By-Laws (Rick Stalle)

Rick reported that he has not revisited the By-Laws since the fall but will now resume work on them. He will send an update with possible areas that need to be rewritten as my parts are outdated with the changes that have occurred on the lake. An attorney may or may not be used in this process. It is the hope that we will have a new document to bring to vote at the BLYC Annual meeting in October. *Action: Rick Stalle will work on pinpointing sections for revisions of the By-Laws.*

Beaver Lake History Book (Lara Ehksam)

Jill Gehl contacted Lara to let her know they have hired a graphic artist to lay out the book that was edited by herself and Ann Kaiser with submission by several lake members. She is paying for this expense out of pocket.

Retired Dinghy Zip Drive (Rick Boelter)

Cathy Liebert reached out again about the zip drive with the collection of all the past dinghies. She initially presented it at a 2025 board meeting. The board is suggesting it gets put on the BLYC Website. *Action: Rick Stalle will get the zip drive to Jim Grinney.*

2026 Dinghy (Rick Boelter)

Lisa Erdmann has agreed to work on the Dinghy for one more year. She is asking for help doing this and hopefully finding a successor or a team to take this on in the future. *Action: Lara Ehksam will send out a BLYC Blast asking for help.*

2026 Swag (Rick Stalle)

Maureen Stalle has volunteered to put together a collection, take orders and buy the BLYC Swag items. She will use Burkhardt sporting goods again.

Boat Wash & Camera FOBL Letter of Inquiry (Rick Stalle)

Rick Stalle had written a letter to FOBL asking if they would be interested in providing a boat was with a possible camera for helping prevent invasive species entering our lake. We as a club

ask boats/barges to have a week out of the water before launching to kill off aquatic hitchhikers. This isn't being done. A Boat Wash would be helpful.

4. Committee Reports:

Financial Report (Suzannah Bong)

Between MMA and Checking there is \$106,189.

Expenses since our last meeting (1/12) greater than \$500:

- Entrance Systems: \$950 to restore power to launch gate after wire cut in excavation.
- Cut-N-Go: \$3,331.13 to remove overgrown spruces and make room for excavation on Jacques side of BLYC property.
- Grind-N-Go: \$945 to grind stumps.
- LC Bookkeeping: \$487 for sending tax info to RPB, invoicing and 1099's.

Social Report (Carolyn Duris)

- Ladies Night (May TBD). We put out a blast looking for host.
- Commodore's Picnic (June 7): Hosted by Board. Will be at Boelter's or Launch if that is done.
- Fireworks (July 4): Pyrotechnics will put on show again. There was a \$1,000 price increase over last year for a total of \$19,047 for the show. The show will add special effects for the 250th Anniversary of the USA for no extra cost but the same amount of time. *Action: Contract will be signed and downpayment made by Carolyn and Suzannah.*
- Poker Run (Sunday TBD): Carolyn and Sharon Hipp will run the event.
- Rock the Boat (TBD): Possible host Sonderman or Knuth.
- Water Ski Show (TBD): In progress, coordinating with CCC. Perhaps they can contribute towards the event.
- Oktoberfest (TBD): A BLYC Blast was sent out looking for host.

Action: Carolyn Duris will firm up dates of events and hosts for the March meeting.

Communications Report (Lara Ehrsam)

- An obit was sent out for Jeff Farnham in January.
- Bruce Hawkins passed away and we are waiting on an obituary to send out announcement.
- A welcome letter was sent to Liz and Todd Krieg who bought the Siegel property.

Action: Emails for the Krieg's will be given to bookkeeping and entered in CC by Lara

Meeting Ended 8:34pm

Submitted by Lara Ehrsam

2026 BLYC Board Meeting Dates

7:00 pm on 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12
Meetings will be at the Boelter's home unless otherwise stated.