

**Beaver Lake Yacht Club Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 9, 2026 @ 7:00pm at the Hipp's**

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

**Guest:** David Barnett

Meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

**1. Review and Approve BLYC Board Minutes 2/09/2026**

On 2/12/26 via email a motion was made by Mike Hipp to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Cam Knuth. All voted in favor (Karen Trimble abstained as she was absent on 2/9/26), motion passed. *Action: Lara Ehram will send to Jim Grinney to post on BLYC Website.*

**2. New Business:**

David Barnett came as a guest. He wanted to bring his opinion of the changes to the lake to the board. David has been coming to Beaver Lake since 1953 when his parent's rented a home on the Interlochen property and knew this is where he wanted to live. He has lived here for most of his adult life and has witnessed big changes in the past decade. In his opinion, most of this has to do with the aesthetics of all the permanent piers. They are getting bigger and the canopies block the view of the lake. He did complete the survey that was sent out in 2025.

The board commented that we do not have any jurisdiction on the installation of permanent piers, they are under the DNR. Rick Stalle made the comments that the DNR does have parameters for permanent piers. The Town of Merton and the Village of Chenequa are the other ordinances that work with issues on the lake. It was suggested that David bring up his concerns at the annual meeting. *Action: The Board will gather the DNR parameters and post them as Best Practices.*

**3. Old Business:**

**a. Launch Site Improvements Status (Rick Stalle)**

Rick went over the contract and a revaluation of the site was not included. He does feel that the winter snow has compacted the gravel and it is in good condition. There is still a pile of gravel in the out lot that will be spread out at the out lot.

At the gate, there is still a lot of puddling. We need to decide if we want to address that when the private road work commences or at another time.

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. He also brought up the deteriorating fence between the launch and Jacques property needing 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 4/1.*

**b. Private Road Signs (Cam Knuth)**

The signs will be done in the next few weeks.

### c. By-Law Revisions (Rick Stalle)

Rick put together the following summary of things he feels need to be looked at concerning the By-Laws:

- Household and Individual membership categories should be eliminated and consolidated into one membership category – “General Membership”. Membership is further defined to be available to anyone who owns residential property or is a yearly tenant on the lake. With the consolidation of membership classes, “Individual Membership” dues should not be ½ of the “household Membership class and dues have not been halved since 2022.
- Voting. Voting should change from 2 votes per Household Member to 1 vote per General Member. This is perhaps the most significant proposed change in the bylaws to eliminate the bias against single household members such as widows or widowers.
- Special Meetings. This provision has allowed the Commodore, or 25 Members to call a Special Meeting. However, with the vote change being proposed, from 2 or 1 votes per former membership class to 1 vote per General membership – then keeping the 25 Member provision in the bylaws would make it more restrictive for at-large Members to call a Special Meeting. I propose that this provision in the Bylaws be changed from 25 Members to 15% of the General Membership to make it more equitable and account for the newly proposed 1-vote per General Household Member provision.
- \$500 approvals. This section should be debated. I propose that the \$500 Commodore approval should go to at least \$2,000, or more. More importantly, I propose that the board should debate a provision that should be considered that might read something like the following:

*“The board shall be allowed to make expenditures during a fiscal year as approved by the yearly budget and ratified at the annual fall Membership meeting. If any unforeseen or unbudgeted expenditure item exceeding (\$XXXXX) or (\$10,000?) arises after the annual meeting or last Special Meeting, then the BLYC Board shall call a Special Meeting (electronically or in person) to obtain ratification from XX% of the Members to approve such expenditure.”*
- Bylaw Amendments – Article XV. This key 2/3 voting Section of the Bylaws needs to be amended to revise the “*present at the meeting*” provision to allow voting electronically or by zoom-type meeting attendance.
- Sailing & Other. There are many other less-important provisions of the Bylaws that need changing that pertain to other areas of the Bylaws that need to be discussed and addressed.
- Launch Rules – Article III. The board has been protected by the prevailing bylaws, but do we want to add the provision that the launch/vendor rules should be determined at or before the fall Annual meeting, or no later than by March 1 annually as suggested in the revision draft above?

It was agreed that the By-Laws are outdated and need to be re-done so we can bring to a vote this fall at the annual meeting. *Action: We will work on sections throughout the next few months and keep the membership posted on proposed changes. Our homework for April’s meeting is to review and propose the changes to Article 1.*

**d. Vendor Communications (Mike Hipp)**

Mike Hipp has sent emails to all the vendors. It has been a struggle getting emails seen by the correct people in charge. He will be putting together a master list to help in the future, A spot was also added to the Vendor Application to ask for that specific billing email. Companies that have outstanding balances will be locked out of the Master Lock System immediately. Companies that have not completed the application and submitted their fee will be locked out as of April 1. *Action: Mike will send out a reminder email to vendors that have not responded. The Master Lock System will be updated to only allow vendors who are current access. Rick Stalle will update Mike with the correct login information.*

**e. Dinghy & Zip Drive of past Dinghies (Rick Boelter)**

A request for help on the Dinghy was sent out, but there has been no response. Lara suggested we try to get a group together to help Lisa Erdmann so we can get this done by the Commodore's Picnic in June. If we can't find people to work on the Dinghy it may not happen in the future. *Action: Communications will send another request for help.*

Rick Stalle cannot locate the zip drive of past dinghies from Cathy Liebert. He will try to get another. We will figure out a way to make available to the membership.

**4. New Business:**

**a. Planning for the Private Road work (Rick Boelter)**

The Private Road which BLYC is a part of will need to be resurfaced. A determination on if that will be in 2026 or 2027 needs to be made. The total bid was for \$21,000 of which the BLYC has 2/3 of that surface (\$7,000). *Action: Rick Boelter and Suzannah will get information on timing and make a proposal to the BLYC Board to vote on.*

**b. FOBL and Power Washing Station (Rick Boelter)**

Mike Katz of FOBL said they would fund a power washing station at the BLYC launch. The BLYC would need to figure out the logistics. The Board discussed the viability of it being used as vendors pay their workers by the hour and we are unsure they would use it. We also have issue of not having water at the launch available or at the outlot. *Action: Rick will call Mike Katz to further discuss.*

**c. Survey Commentary (Rick Boelter)**

Rick received 2 comments after the survey results were posted to the website. (1) Mark Erdmann made the suggestion that the board talk to our top three vendors and have a discussion on what is and isn't working with our current policies. (2) Bill Boelter made the suggestions that a multiple choice questionnaire versus open ended comments be done and get a concrete idea of what the membership would like.

We will be putting together a more complete budget to vote on at the annual meeting and with that hope to have projections on launch expenditures and needs in the future.

**5. Committee Reports:**

**a. Financial Report (Suzannah Bong)**

Between MMA and Checking there is \$119,367.

Expenses since our last meeting (2/9) greater than \$500:

- Grind-N-Go: \$945 to grind stumps.
- Pyrotechnic Fireworks Deposit: \$9,523
- RPB: Tax Return Filing: \$925

- LC Bookkeeping: \$520 Sending out annual dues, quarterly sales tax and vendor invoicing.

Other Items for review:

- New landscape company to take over moving the out lot and launch site - \$60/week. Seeley Services no longer does mowing – they recommended Turf Lawn Care. This is the same amount that Seeley charged last year. *Action: Get another quote, Rick Stalle has recommended Groundskeeper.*
- Jill DeGrave is applying to become a new member, the daughter of Carol Franke who passed away. She will be taking over her mother’s home. Do we charge her a New Member Dues. *The board said fee paid by family already.*

**Social Report (Carolyn Duris)**

- Ladies Night (May 14). Hosted by Kristin Schultz.
- 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 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USA for no extra cost but the same amount of time.
- Poker Run (Sunday, August 30 3:00): Carolyn and Sharon Hipp will run the event.
- Rock the Boat (TBD): Possible host Bong’s. *Action: Suzannah will talk to Matt about hosting and get back to Carolyn. If Bong’s cannot – Lara will send a blast for host.*
- Water Ski Show (TBD): In progress, Kathy Coakley coordinating with CCC who is on board with having the event at their pier, CCC will supply sound system, space on beach and food for members. CCC would like BLYC to pay, perhaps we can convince CCC to contribute towards the event. *Action: Kathy/Carolyn see if they’ll contribute or help contribute towards fireworks which CCC hosts event for and makes money on.*
- Oktoberfest (TBD): A BLYC Blast was sent out looking for host. *Action: Lara will send another request.*

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

**Communications Report (Lara Ehram)**

- We are reaching out to Jill DeGrave with membership application.
- Kudos to Jim Grinney for being ultra expedient getting information onto the BLYC Website, I’ve asked a lot this month.

**Meeting Ended 7:35pm**

Motion made by Mike Hipp, seconded Cam Knuth, all in favor.

**Submitted by Lara Ehram**

**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.