Dear Members,

The Friends of the Boyne River yearly accomplishments are almost back to normal following the pandemic. The Board met regularly at the Boyne District Library, starting with goals and budget setting in January.

**General membership meetings** resumed with speakers.
- **Ed Eisch**, Michigan DNR, talked about Michigan’s Arctic Grayling initiative
- **Sam Day**, Little Traverse Bay Bands, spoke about green infrastructure to protect our rivers and lakes
- **Heather Hettinger**, Michigan DNR, talked about Boyne River fisheries management
- **Tom Renkes** spoke about his solo 1,000-mile Lake Superior kayak tour without GPS, laptop or trailing vehicle

The Scholarship Committee awarded $1,500 **Marie Zoberski Friends of the Boyne River Scholarships** to high school graduates. Thanks to a donation in honor of Donna Moll, we gave a third scholarship. Recipients are:
- **Paxton Giem** BCHS Environmental Sciences and Marketing at Adrian College
- **Anna Richards** EJHS Environmental Sciences at Alma College
- **Garrett Wilson** EJHS Natural Resources Management at North Central Michigan College

On **Arbor Day**, volunteers planted 100 bird-friendly and erosion-controlling native shrubs in Riverside Park. A member of the Petoskey Regional Audubon Society helped select the shrubs.

Our regular **spring river monitoring** was in May. Each year in the spring and fall, we monitor the river for macroinvertebrates that are sensitive to pollution. The Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council organizes the monitoring and maintains the records. The next river monitoring is **September 17th**. If you are interested in helping, talk to Adam or Nancy.

In June, we held a **spruce-up at the Boyne River Nature Area**. We cleaned up the rain garden and pruned and mulched shrubs and trees. This year we added a porta-potty at the BRNA. It is beside the Boyne Valley Trailway adjacent to the nature area and is for available people biking or visiting the BRNA. We also added a new bike rack that the City of Boyne City gave us.

We continued **purple loosestrife control** efforts in Riverside Park, releasing the purple loosestrife-eating beetles along the river behind the Consumers Power property. We are making progress controlling the invasive plant. In the past, purple loosestrife grew along Spring St. and today it is gone. Go Beetles! Our purple dingy mascot finally fell apart and we are looking for a donated or low-cost replacement.

On September 8th, the **Petoskey News-Review** published a front-page article about Boyne USA applying to renew their license for the **hydroelectric dam** on the Boyne River off Dam Rd. The article mentions organizations that communicated concerns about renewing the license, but Friends of the Boyne River is not included. However, FoBR was invited to comment as an interested party along with several other public and private entities in 2019. Our Board’s primary concern is about the safety of the aging dam, so we submitted several letters since then, emphasizing a perceived fault in the dam foundation. The application is under consideration and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will make the final decision.

**Keep Texting!** The water height gauges installed in 2014 by scientists from NYU at Buffalo, Indiana University, and University of Missouri, are still in place, although showing their age. While the grant project is over and the temperature gauges were removed, the Citizen Scientist trial worked and a larger trial on the Yellowstone River is underway. Boyne River data is still being collected for analysis.

*Nancy Cunningham, Secretary*
*Friends of the Boyne River*

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