



# Higgins Lake Property Owners Association<sup>SM</sup>

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**President:** Charlene Cornell, **Vice Pres:** Greg Semack, **Secretary:** Herb Weatherly, **Treasurer:** Bruce Carleton  
**Directors:** Chuck Brick, Wayne Brooks, Becky Gibson, Mark Lutz, Bob McKellar, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart

## Higgins Lake Property Owners Association Board Meeting Minutes May 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:00 A.M.

**Board Members Present:** Charlene Cornell, Greg Semack, Bruce Carleton, Herb Weatherly, Mark Lutz, Wayne Brooks, John Ogren and Fred Swinehart. Bob McKellar and Chuck Brick were absent.

**Agenda:** No Changes.

**President's Comments:** Charlene noted that Becky Gibson would be joining our meeting to introduce herself, for the possibility of filling our Board member vacancy.

**April Minutes:** Bruce moved to accept the April 15, 2019 Minutes as written, seconded by Herb. Motion passed.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Secretary/Office:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bruce stated that the financial statement for the month of April 30, 2019 was not available. Receipts and disbursements were reviewed, with major items discussed.

Bruce asked if monthly financials were necessary for posting on our website and suggested we post them quarterly. The Board agreed and Chuck will note this on our website.

Bruce shared that our CPA firm stated that the revenue producing portion of our Member Directory income is taxable.

Last, Bruce said that the rent deposit from our previous landlord has not yet been received and Herb will follow-up.

**Membership & Communication:** Wayne reported that we have 438 members as of May 17, 2019.

A discussion was held as to how to contact 2018 members that have not yet joined in 2019. It was decided to mail a letter with a membership envelope to those people, which will be done this week.

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Regarding the Member Directory, Wayne stated that we have 49 advertisers, resulting in \$8,681.00 in our directory fund.

A discussion was held regarding the HLPOA annual dues and increasing them \$10.00, from \$90.00 to \$100.00 per year, to take effect with the 2020 membership year. An explanation will be given at the annual meeting. Wayne moved to adopt this motion, seconded by Fred. Motion passed.

In an effort to curb mailing costs, Charlene suggested that we email the annual meeting packet and the Board agreed.

With the location change for our annual meeting, Wayne suggested that we have someone at the High School to re-direct members to the Elementary School.

**Riparian Committee:** Greg said that a Riparian Committee meeting was held on May 16. They will be having another meeting with local law enforcement tomorrow, on May 21. Topics to be included are illegal anchor removal, road end issues, response time when violations are reported, PA 56 enforcement and potential ordinances being enacted that would require boats to be washed at DNR launch sites. The anonymous reporting document has been submitted and will soon be posted on our website. It was discussed and decided to email the Riparian Rights document to our members shortly, in order that members become familiar with it as the summer season begins.

Greg also stated that he will be in contact with the sheriff/marine patrol to see if they have any needs that the HLPOA can be involved with.

**Environmental Committee:** Fred reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> water sampling cycle has been completed by the Roscommon High School students, which occurred April 29 – May 3, 2019.

Fred shared that the HLF approved a \$5,000.00 reimbursement grant for the 2019 water sampling program. Regarding additional water sampling grants, Fred stated that the RCCF can donate to the High School and the grant is being reviewed, while there is not any news from the Rotary Club yet.

A discussion was held regarding SSW and an action plan to control it.

Last, Fred reminded the Board of the Landing Blitz on June 29, where the HLPOA has volunteered from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM at the North State Park and West Launch. Charlene asked for volunteers.

**PAC:** Greg stated that a meeting was held on May 14, where 2 new members were added to the PAC Board, Board member Mark Lutz and HLPOA member-at-large, Nanette Guggemos. At this time, Greg said there is little election activity, but the Board wants to establish better contact with our new state senator Curt VanderWall and our state representative Daire Rendon. An effort will be made to attend meetings in the district with Senator VanderWall to bring our issues to his attention. We have requested that the Senator attend our annual meeting but will not have a concrete answer until two weeks prior to our meeting.

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**HLSIO:** Greg reported that the HLSIO Board met on May 16 and that Jim Vondale has officially resigned from the Board. Jim was instrumental in the founding of not only the HLSIO, but also the MISIP consortium of lakes in Northern Michigan that are united to fight against Swimmer's Itch. His leadership will be greatly missed. Greg said the Board is pleased to announce the addition of current HLPOA Board member John Ogren to the HLSIO Board. John is already heading the initiative of the goose removal project again this year and will be firming up plans in the near future. John has been in contact with the Goosebusters company that we worked with last year and has our permit in place.

Greg said that we are presently involved with contract negotiations for removing Merganser duck broods this summer and expect those negotiations to conclude shortly. Greg added that Neal Cooley of the HLSIO Board asked that he be given materials to distribute at his restaurant (Fred's) to explain what we are doing about SI and how interested people can support this effort.

There was discussion about the potential to create a duck hunting/research project again this fall. The HLSIO will try to contact the local Ducks Unlimited hunters' group to see if they can supply committed hunters.

Greg attended a DNR meeting on May 9, having to do with permitting for MISIP purposes. Permitting to relocate Merganser broods will be available to lakes that have been successful in reducing the infection rate of SI. Previously, the DNR was considering not granting permits to lakes where infection levels had been reduced considerably. A so-called maintenance permit will be available under certain conditions, which should be reasonably met.

Last, Greg said it is imperative that we alert the HLPOA membership to the fact that the state appropriation money for the fight against SI is in doubt at this time in the current state budget being debated in Lansing. Our members could be helpful by contacting their state senator or representative in order to urge them to support continuance of state funding. In each of the past 3 years, the MISIP has received \$250,000 to help combat SI. It is important that this continues. Sample letters and websites, to help determine who the legislators are for all areas of the state, will be included in the notice to our members.

**Elections Committee:** After discussion, Herb moved to elect Becky Gibson to fill the Board member vacancy for the remainder of the 2019 term, seconded by Fred. Motion passed.

**Ongoing Business:** Charlene said there is no update on the AMVETS lawsuit.

Mark shared that an article announcing our Open House will be in the Seasons Summer 2019 issue of the Houghton Lake Resorter, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 29 from 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

**Adjournment:** Bruce moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Fred. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:18 P.M.

**The next meeting will be June 10, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.**

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