



# 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:** Wayne Brooks, Jack Cornell, Becky Gibson, Mark Lutz, Bob McKellar, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association

Board Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:01 A.M.

**Board Members Present:** Charlene Cornell, Greg Semack, Bruce Carleton, Herb Weatherly, Becky Gibson, Fred Swinehart, Bob McKellar, John Ogren, Jack Cornell, and Wayne Brooks. Mark Lutz was absent.

**Agenda:** No changes.

**President's Comments:** Charlene thanked Board members for successfully circulating the signature page of the updated Conflict of Interest Affirmation and also updated the lobbyist discussion, where we will do more research and continue to actively look to other resources to share costs.

**December Minutes:** Greg moved to accept the December 21, 2020 Minutes as written, seconded by Bruce. Motion passed.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Secretary/Office:** Herb identified Board members that have not yet joined for 2021 and asked them to do so. Also, Herb reminded everyone that no postings should be entered on our website without Board approval.

**Treasurer's Report:** The December 31, 2020 Statement of Financial Condition and Statement of Income prepared on QuickBooks were reviewed. Bruce noted that our direct year end results showed a slightly favorable variance from the 2020 budget, due in part to map sales made during 2020 not included in the original budget. The 2021 budget was also reviewed, revised, and approved for posting to our website. The final CPA prepared December 31, 2020 fiscal Review statement will be posted to the website when completed.

Bruce reported that Jack Cornell had volunteered to complete and file the HLPOA payroll taxes. The CPA is currently doing this at a cost of \$250 per quarterly filing. The board agreed and joined Bruce in expressing their appreciation to Jack for this and his other work on behalf of the HLPOA. Bruce then nominated Jack to become a member of the Finance Committee seconded by Herb. Motion passed.

**Membership/Communication:** Becky thanked everyone who submitted articles for the Winter newsletter, which will be forwarded to members this week. Becky added that we currently have 346 members, and that Wayne is working on the advertising form for our 2021 Member Directory.

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**Riparian Committee:** Follow-up from John about items mentioned at our last meeting:

- The Riparian committee is working on the task of identifying short term rental properties in Lyon Township that are listed on Airbnb and VRBO. In the Winter newsletter, we also asked members to help by emailing street addresses for rental properties in their neighborhood to create an ongoing data base for the use of both Gerrish and Lyon Townships.
- Last month John also mentioned the question raised about commercial use restrictions at West Road. There has been no response from the County Road Commission.
- John notified both Chief Hill in Gerrish and County Under Sheriff Ben Lowe that the PA56 signs are available for their use for the locations they choose. So far, no responses.

John noted there were a couple of new items this month:

- Kathleen forwarded a call from one of our members who reported requests for anchorage space from riparians on one of the Higgins Lake Facebook pages. There apparently were also responses that indicated renting anchorage space was illegal. Renting space is not legal without a marina permit from EGLE. We will try to keep an eye on this issue and decide if a reminder to our members is needed.
- The same call also reported rumors about plans to do informal dirt work by the dock association at the Bismark Blvd road end at Sam-O-Set. John plans to alert the Roscommon County Road Commission to this possibility.

**Environmental Committee:** Fred thanked Environmental Committee member Melanie Brown for her excellent article written for the winter newsletter.

Fred met with the Lyon Township Board at their work session to discuss the culvert replacement on Dewey road. We seek their approval for the Roscommon County Road Commission to proceed with engineering and permitting an environmentally acceptable replacement. We did not ask for their financial involvement in completing the project as we are seeking other funds to accomplish that.

Last, Fred stated that we sampled the outlet of Big Creek in January and found very high levels of e-coli and other coliform bacteria present. These results will be posted on the HLPOA website in a few weeks. The data has been passed along to the Central Michigan Public Health office in Prudenville. They have confirmed that they will be conducting point source studies along Big Creek this summer to help identify locations of concern.

**Election Committee:** Herb identified Board members that will be nominated for re-election at our annual meeting: Jack, Mark, Bob, and John. Charlene asked for updated biographies from them.

**PAC:** Lyon Township appears ready to go ahead with the sewer project after reviewing the report from Fleis & Vandenbrink, showing a separate sewer project for Lyon Township would be more expensive than participating in the lake wide program that has been ongoing for the last two years. They will be a meeting with the Gerrish board representatives soon with the next step to finalize articles of incorporation, appoint utility board members and start looking at costs and funding.

Fred moved that no support from the HLPOA or any of its associated committees and organizations support either financially or with public statements any elected state or national congressional representatives who voted to nullify the results of the certified and adjudicated fair results of the Michigan 2020 elections, seconded by Becky. After discussion, Board members were reminded that our focus is to preserve and enhance the quality

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and beauty of Higgins Lake vs a political stance. Herb added that the object of PAC is to assist us in Lansing with subjects related to the lake. Motion failed.

**HLSIO:** The HLSIO board met on 1-7-21. We are in the process of updating our website. Much more information will be added to the site, probably by month's end. Melanie Brown and Phil Czech are working together on the new changes and have come up with many good ideas.

We just received the final relocation site report from Curt and Randy and will be meeting in the near future with the DNR to go over the research results.

We will be working on the 2021 program details soon. It will likely be similar to the 2020 program for trapping and relocation and we may consider a research project that might be important to help with future analysis. Some topics that have been discussed are the effect of relocation on the trapping lake and the relocation site, and why has snail population declined over the last 5 years.

**Ongoing Business:** There is a control date set for February 2, 2021, so the AMVETS cannot drag this out beyond that date.

Herb reported the cost to subscribe to the Houghton Lake Resorter online and Charlene volunteered to subscribe.

**New Business:** Our Annual meeting will be July 17, 2021.

**Adjournment:** Fred moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Greg. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

**The next meeting will be February 15, 2021 at 9:00 A.M.**

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