



Higgins Lake Property Owners AssociationSM

PO Box 55 211 N. Main Street Roscommon, MI 48653

Website: hlpoa.org email: hlpoa0@gmail.com

Ph.: (989) 275-9181 Fax: (989) 275-9182

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
February 15, 2021

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, Bob McKellar, Fred Swinehart, Jack Cornell, Wayne Brooks, Becky Gibson, and John Ogren. Mark Lutz was absent.

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: Charlene stated that HLPOA attorney, Bill Carey, will join us for an update on the AMVETS lawsuit. Charlene then reported on the Michigan Environmental Committee webinar, "How We Protect Our Coasts from Rising Waters", and shared information on requesting copies of individual permit applications which are public noticed. Requests for this process can be shared by Charlene or the HLPOA office.

January Minutes: There were no corrections for the January 31, 2021 Minutes and they were accepted.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The financials through January 31, 2021 were presented. Bruce added that our program involving vintage map sales has been very successful!

Membership/Communication: Wayne stated we have 410 members vs 393 one year ago. Wayne also is looking at sending a membership reminder to prospects. Wayne added that the directory advertising forms are ready and will get with Kathleen for the mailing.

Becky noted that an email blast was sent to members recently, which notified them of an AIS seminar series, starting February 16, 2021. Becky also spoke of the need for a welcome letter for new members. Last, Becky set a March 15th deadline for articles for the Spring newsletter.

Riparian Committee: John said that the Riparian Committee continues to make progress in developing a list of short-term rental properties in Lyon Township. A total of about 30 properties has been identified. A total of 18 are listed on VRBO and have been visually identified to determine the street addresses. Nine others are listed on

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Airbnb but have not been identified at the street level. Four others were identified by HLPOA members as a result of the newsletter appeal.

The total is less than half of the properties identified in Gerrish Township by the Chief of Police and is probably well short of the total properties being rented. We have asked the Lyon Township supervisor to consider a message to all property owners in their next newsletter or property tax mailing, but not yet received a response.

Elsewhere in Roscommon County, the February 4 issue of the Houghton Lake Resorter reported that Roscommon and Denton Township jointly developed a short-term rental ordinance and are in the process of implementing it. The ordinances would require township approval of maximum capacity, parking, other restrictions, and an annual fee. Last year Lake Township adopted an ordinance to prohibit rentals under 29 days in R-1 through R-4 Residential Districts. Compared to these ordinances, the communications approach by Gerrish Township and planned with Lyon Township are far less restrictive but will hopefully prove to be of some benefit.

Environmental Committee: Fred thanked Becky for posting the Big and Little Creeks' most recent data on our website. Fred stated that samples were taken from the Big Creek outlet to the lake in early January 2021 and high levels of general coliform and e-coliform bacteria were found. Data from January 2020 show comparable levels of bacterial content and both sets of data are now on our website.

Fred said that Lyon Township passed a resolution to proceed with the Big Creek/Dewey Road Culvert replacement project on Dewey Road, providing they had no financial obligation for its completion. There is a temporary funding setback, as the Huron Pines application for additional funding to support those funds already in hand from the Higgins Lake Land Conservancy, the Higgins Lake Foundation, and the Higgins Lake Property Owners Association, was turned down by the DNR'S GRANT OFFICE. Huron Pines will now request funding from The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership. Additional funding will also be requested from local sources as well. Progress will be reported as these efforts continue.

Fred added that two programs are planned this summer, both with student participation: A micro plastics in the lake study, and the continuing near-shore lake water quality analysis. For the water quality study, Fred noted that the HLF has made a \$5,000.00 grant commitment for this year, while he is still pursuing The Roscommon Rotary Club and the Roscommon County Community Foundation.

Jack shared that the Land Conservancy as a 501 (C)(3) organization will financially cooperate with the HLPOA on a per project basis, and he will act as the liaison person between the two organizations.

Election Committee: Bob reviewed the book of Robert's Rules, which suggested that annually, the proxy include a statement that the Board has reviewed and approved the proxy and include a date. The Board approved this revision.

PAC: Greg reported that there is little to discuss as far as politics, but we will likely have another HLPAC meeting before the next HLPOA meeting.

In local municipal news, the new boards installed after the November elections are working well. In Lyon Township it seems as though their board is now soundly behind the sewer project. The board representatives for Lyon and Gerrish have met recently and are very close to working out the details of the articles of incorporation. This step will lead to the formation of the sewer authority. Once formed the sewer authority will be able to apply for funding which will eventually answer the questions about resident cost. There was article in this week's Resorter updating the community about the sewer project.

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There has been nothing of consequence to the lake determined in the recent Roscommon county meetings.

HLSIO: Greg reported that HLSIO will have their next meeting this Thursday, 2-18. HLSIO has recently completed an extensive update of our website which we feel now contains more helpful information than in the past. Many thanks to board members Melanie Brown and Phil Czech for their work on this project. HLSIO has had discussions with Swimmer's Itch Solutions and have worked out an agreement to once again be working with them for the 2021 season to continue our program for SI control. We have met recently with the DNR in order to work out details that should keep our control program viable into the future. The HLSIO has applied for a Grant for 2021 from the Consumers Energy Foundation for research work that may be done this summer on Higgins Lake. We will know if we are selected as a recipient sometime in the spring.

Ongoing Business: Bill Carey, HLPOA attorney, addressed the status of the AMVETS lawsuit. AMVETS council, Brian McGorisk, sent a letter to Bill that essentially said they would not accept the terms presented, most noteworthy being they would not limit the number of watercraft to less than the July 2016 permit amount.

Charlene suggested we form a committee to review our options. Herb moved to form a committee, seconded by Becky. Motion passed. John will chair the committee and Board members Greg, Wayne, and Charlene volunteered to be part of the committee.

Adjournment: Bob moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bruce. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

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

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