



Higgins Lake Property Owners AssociationSM

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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
May 17, 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, Mark Lutz, Fred Swinehart, Jack Cornell, Becky Gibson, and John Ogren. Bob McKellar and Wayne Brooks were absent.

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: Charlene thanked the Committee Chairs for submitting their annual reports on time.

April Minutes: The April 19, 2021, Minutes were accepted as written.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: Herb stated that he has the PA 56 road signs, boat wash hand-outs and wands at his home.

Treasurer's Report: The financials through April 30, 2021, were presented. Bruce added that we received our financial review statement from Croskey Lanni for 2020.

Bruce led a discussion about the bylaw requirement of needing a second signature for expenditures over \$600.00, specifically about the monthly \$1000.00 payment to Public Affairs Associates (PAA). Herb agreed to be the automatic signature for PAA monthly payments for the remainder of 2021.

Membership/Communication: Becky shared that we have 473 members, with 5 as a result of the second prospects mailing. She added that Charlene mailed post card reminders to those that have not yet renewed.

Becky stated that Wayne has been working on finalizing the ad sponsorship for the 2021 Member Directory. We currently have 31 ads, with 5 additional committed.

Becky also submitted an article to be published in the Houghton Lake Resorter.

Last, Becky is working on an email blast to include information on oak wilt, AIS species, and shoreline plants. Fred added that we could possibly conduct volunteer projects on rain gardens and shoreline planting.

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Riparian Committee:

John stated that our spring meeting with local law enforcement will be a ZOOM meeting on Wednesday, May 19. We expect participation from Gerrish and Lyon Townships and Roscommon County. The agenda items follow:

- Marine Patrol Update
- PA 56 Road End Signs
- Marine Patrol Tagging System
- Central Dispatch Review
- Gerrish Township Short-Term Rental Update
- Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act 2019

John also plans to meet with Chief Hill and Doug Schnell, Lyon Township Clerk, about clarifying configuration of road end docks. Gerrish only approves a linear dock with a single platform. Most Lyon Township docks are the same but there are no guidelines on configuration and some side members have been noticed.

John will also use this meeting to discuss the short-term rental plans with Doug Schnell.

Environmental Committee: Fred said that there is not an update on the Dewey Road culvert replacement project. However, it is still expected to be completed in July, when the creek is at its' lowest depth.

Fred shared there is a new project involving a macro-invertebrate study at Big Creek, the Cut River, and perhaps other nearshore waters. Melanie Brown, Fred, and perhaps others will be involved in a training program this month. Preserved species would then be analyzed at Ferris State University. Fred added this would also be a great biology student project. The cost is approximately \$500.00 for needed equipment, which has been purchased by Melanie for the HLPOA. Fred moved to reimburse Melanie for this equipment required to do a macro-invertebrate survey in shallow water. The motion was seconded by Bruce. Motion passed.

Fred then stated that we received the first 2021 report from John Blizzard for water testing around the lake, and the quality is very good. Perhaps the recent drought conditions have reduced runoff into the lake from the surrounding watershed. As in past years, four more cycles of sampling will take place this summer and fall. The resulting data will once again be posted on our website.

Testing for micro-plastic contamination in the lake will be done again this year. Student collection and examination of zebra mussels which filter the lake waters for food but retain the plastic particles will provide the data. Last years' study was incomplete, but the procedure was developed by Chuck Schepke of the Roscommon Area Public High School and Melanie Brown using HLPOA donated microscopy equipment for the analysis. The photographic equipment worked very well and considerable micro-plastic contamination was observed. The study this year will be completed with student assistance and published on our website.

Last, Fred asked that we keep in mind to conduct a "Trash Bash" in the fall, encouraging riparians to police their shoreline and to especially clean-up plastic litter.

PAC: HLPAC treasurer Rick Goedert has resigned in order to spend more time with personal interests. Rick has done an outstanding job and we wish him the best in his pursuits.

HLSIO: HLSIO has recently filed our 990-tax return for 2020. Fine work by treasurer Phil Czech to accomplish this. New changes to the HLSIO website were discussed and additions will be made shortly, including adding the mission statement to the Homepage.

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An updated letter was recently sent to HLSIO supporters and HLPOA then sent this update to all our members.

John Ogren announced that the permit has been obtained and that during June the Canada Goose relocation program will take place. Exact dates will be finalized shortly. We are already getting reports of geese and goslings near the South State Park. This is normal breeding time for geese. We will be checking the area in the park vicinity when the relocation takes place.

Plans are now being made for our fundraising dinner to be held on August 12th once again at Jim and Laura Witt's barn. The event has been very popular in the past, and we are delighted to be able to plan this event after not being able to do so in 2020.

Ongoing Business: Charlene reported that the lawsuit has been filed, with depositions to follow this summer and court dates this fall.

Regarding the sewer project, Greg reported that the Articles of Incorporation were passed by both Gerrish and Lyon Townships. The next step is the appointment of the Utility Authority. Weekly meetings will begin via ZOOM in June, where an archeologists' service proposal will be discussed. They are also seeking grant funding from the state of Michigan. Support letters are welcome.

Herb stated that the Roscommon school system is adhering to the 25 people limit for meetings: therefore, our annual meeting will be via ZOOM. Charlene added that Dr. Jenifer Jermalowicz-Jones will be speaking at the meeting and asked for suggestions as to what topics we would like her to cover. A committee was formed, consisting of Charlene, John, Jack, Fred, and Becky, to review topics. Charlene added that our proxy has been revised to include that it has been reviewed and approved by the current HLPOA Board. Greg moved to approve this revision, seconded by Fred. Motion passed.

New Business: Charlene advised us that Mark Lutz will not be renewing his Board position and asked that we look to fill this Board vacancy.

Adjournment: Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bruce. The meeting adjourned at 10:29_A.M.

The next meeting will be June 21, 2021, at 9:00 A.M.

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