



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, Curt DeVoe, Bob McKellar, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart, Herb Weatherly

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
October 17, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes
ZOOM Virtual Meeting

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

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

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: Charlene thanked committee chairs for sending their committee reports early for review. Charlene added that Wayne will introduce a guest speaker to discuss the Camp Grayling expansion.

September Minutes: John noted a typo under the riparian report. With that change, Herb moved to accept the September 19, 2022, Minutes, seconded by John. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The financials through September 30, 2022, were presented.

Membership & Communication: Wayne said that we will stuff envelopes for the bulk membership mailing on December 1st and asked for volunteers.

Becky asked for volunteers to assist with postcards to mail in support of maintaining current Lyon Township Board members for the upcoming election.

Riparian Committee: John reported the following:

Roscommon Public Safety Meeting, September 20, 2022: Notes for the meeting were distributed to HLPOA Board Members on October 6. Any questions?

PA 56 Signs: Still waiting on the Roscommon County Road Commission (RCRC) to stake the four new or replacement sign locations and to confirm whether they will be able to sell steel signposts to us from their inventory. It now looks like we will wait for early spring to install the posts and signs. Installation will be

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coordinated with the Sheriff's office and the Gerrish Township police including the placement of PA 56 signs on existing poles currently used for the public notice on Jacob's restriction.

Public Notice Signs for Jacob's Restriction: These signs were originally installed in 2005 at all Higgins Lake road ends. There are about 80 locations. Some of the signs are faded or defaced, some steel posts bent by snowplows and some wooden posts rotting or wobbly. The Riparian Committee members will survey the road ends and recommend repair or replacement for the worst locations. My guess is that we will need to replace 5-10 signs next year. The cost is estimated to be \$250 for locations which require a new post. We will recommend a budget item for the 2023 budget.

Guest Speaker: Wayne introduced guest speaker, Mike McNamara, who is a retired Lieutenant Colonel with the National Guard. Also available for questions was Mike Smolka, with the Houghton Lake Conservation Foundation.

Mr. McNamara spoke of the potential Grayling land grab by the MI National Guard, a military training facility, currently occupying 147, 000 acres. He voiced his opposition to the expansion, as there has not been any documentation as to the need of the expansion. The National Guard has stated that the expansion is needed for electronic warfare, which Mr. McNamara said could be accomplished with the existing land. The National Guard and the DNR have given a 30-day comment period for the acquisition of an additional 163,000 acres. Mr. McNamara stated oppositions concerning wildlife, drinking water, closing ORV trails, fly fishing, migration, and other environmental issues.

Mike McNamara said more information can be found at: D Business Magazine, Facebook – Camp Grayling Expansion and 230isenough.com.

Wayne asked when will a decision be made? Mr. McNamara answered there is no hard timeline but suspects it will be after the elections. Jack stated that the Higgins Lake Land Conservancy (HLLC) has opposed it. Curt asked what form does the land acquisition take? Mr. McNamara said leases, although no money changes hands. Curt asked what is driving this? Mr. McNamara is not sure, but thinks an incentive is providing money to contractors and possibly legacy building for a larger Camp Grayling.

The Board members thanked Mike McNamara for his presentation. Charlene then said they will do more research to see if another perspective is needed to be heard at the next meeting.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

Human Sourced Pharmaceutical Pollution from Septic Systems: Professor Joan Rose of Michigan State University responded to our request for assistance in assessing the extent of human sourced pharmaceutical pollution in the lake. We were referred to the laboratory of Dr. Hui Li at MSU. They have the capability to analyze for these compounds from samples collected and sent to their laboratory. Melanie Brown and I collected six samples from near shore locations around the lake on September 25th. The sites chosen for sampling were these: Cut River (#3), Sam-O-Set (#4), DNR West Launch (#5), North State Park (#7), Gerrish Township Park, and Kennedy Beach (#12). (The numbers correspond to the student sampling points in those studies.)

Chain of custody information was recorded and maintained throughout. The samples were taken and handled according to Professor Li's strict EPA required procedure. They were immediately placed in a cold storage

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container. The samples were then hand carried and delivered to Professor Li's laboratory at MSU on September 26th. As of this date the sample analyses have been completed and the preliminary report is that pharmaceuticals were indeed found in the samples. Thus, giving a clear indication of human sourced contamination from septic drain fields entering the near shore waters of the lake. The final report will be forthcoming following Professor Li's review. It will be placed on our website as soon as it is available.

Brook Trout Habitat Improvement in Big Creek: Last spring we received an EGLE permit to install a number of single vane log current deflectors between the Treasure Blvd. Bridge and the new Dewey Road Culvert. The permit allows work to continue until 2025. The intent of this project is to narrow and deepen the stream to provide more cover for larger brook trout and other fish species. Three test structures were installed and are being evaluated as models for future constructions. Some additional permits will likely be sought for other types of structures and erosion prevention as they are determined to be necessary.

PAC: Greg reported the following:

We continue to meet with legislators stressing the importance of the proposed sewer to our area. I met virtually two weeks ago with the person likely to be our next State Senator, Michelle Hoytenga. She lives on a lake and understands our problems. She is on board with our sewer project but says that she knows competition is fierce for infrastructure of this nature.

We sent out information to our members for the Lyon Township recall elections and the supervisor race. We had a little feedback, and I called the people to discuss their comments with them. I have met separately with Larry Maduri about his position on the sewer and in general about Lyon Township. Harry Johnson is a frequent member of the Zoom meetings for getting more favorable petitions.

Brad Gibson will attend a meeting this week where candidates Ken Borton, Michelle Hoytenga and Senator Curt VanderWall are to be present.

Locally, I made a presentation to the Gerrish board to buy and install equipment to be able to stream any meeting from the Township meeting room. Dave Udy is now in contact with the person I suggest does this and will be the person to follow through with this. I suggested a system similar to that which the County Commissioner's use in their meeting room. The recall effort in Gerrish township has been reduced to just Dave Udy. The other names have been withdrawn.

Special assessment districts are currently being set up for Houghton Lake in order to rebuild or repair their Dam. Their legal level is also being challenged as their lake is always higher than the legal level and the residents want it to be kept there. Some concern that a special assessment district may be set up for Higgins Lake and the lake level may also be reassessed.

Last, there is a rumor that Ken Melvin will run as a write in candidate for county commissioner in District 2.

HLSIO: Greg reported the following:

We now have the ability to make minor changes on our website. Melanie Brown is our person who is in charge of the website.

We intend to start using Paypal to accept donations. Melanie and Phil are working on this. They have already set up an email address which will be used for the Paypal site.

The results of our summer study confirmed that SI case reports are low. We intend to continue the study collecting more data next year. The study was handled by board member Duncan Lawrence.

We have been having early discussions about next year's research projects. One may be to determine the gestation period of the parasite in the duckling. Another may be to determine how the snail population is being influenced by other invertebrates like Zebra and Quagga mussels. We're still in the early stages of all this and

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there are lots of moving targets about SIS. Their time may be affected by work in other states next year if permitted.

I have yet to meet with DNR contact Barb Avers about next year and the reinstatement of the relocation program. We don't know if Avian Flu will still be present, but we want to make our case about continuing relocation. Some relocation rules were relaxed this summer as the season went on.

People have been reporting merganser sighting as the fall migration continues.

Ongoing Business: On October 10, 2022, GLUA held a sewer project meeting with speaker Dr. Rose, from Michigan State University. Becky is working on providing a recap of this meeting to our members.

New Business: Charlene stated that some members have voiced a concern about neighbors utilizing fertilizers that are running into the lake. A discussion was held about the HLPOA's position on this subject and the possibility of creating a resolution. Charlene will do further research and report to the Board next month.

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

The next meeting will be November 21, 2022, at 9:00 A.M.