



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, Becky Gibson, Bob McKellar, John Ogren, Fred Swinehart

Higgins Lake Property Owners Association
May 20, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
Zoom Virtual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Charlene Cornell at 9:03 A.M.

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

Agenda: No changes.

President's Comments: Charlene wished everyone a happy Memorial Day weekend!

April Minutes: Becky noted a correction under the HLPAC report. With that change, Bruce moved to accept the April 15, 2024, Minutes, seconded by Herb. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

Secretary/Office: None.

Treasurer's Report: The April 30, 2024, financials were presented and there were no questions. Bruce noted that the allocation of funds was corrected under the Directory Advertisements category.

Membership & Communication: Wayne reported that the directory advertisers fund is at \$9,255.00, with approximately \$500.00 forthcoming. The 2024 Member Directory is done and has been sent to the printer. He will establish a date within a week, to stuff envelopes. Wayne then stated that we have 454 members vs our budgeted 510, adding that 19 new members are from our recent bulk mailing to prospects. Last, Wayne thanked member Ric Blamer for his help in formulating the members' list for the directory. Thank you, Ric! Charlene thanked Becky for all of her work in developing the Spring newsletter, which was sent last week to our members. Thank you, Becky! Becky said that we will be sending an email blast about the upcoming fundraiser, *Chips, Sips and Dips* on July 5th. Becky then shared that the website has been updated, including Bill Carey's document on MRTA, under the legal section.

Riparian Committee: John reported the following:

The **Roscommon County Safety Meeting** on May 15 was attended by Ben Lowe, Under Sheriff; Ron Bradley, County Marine Patrol; Brian Hill, Gerrish Township Supervisor; Gerrish Chief of Police, Eric Muszynski, and

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Vanessa Varner, Director, County Emergency Management. Lyon Township was not represented. Notes from the meeting will be circulated soon, but the highlights follow;

- The Marine Patrol for Higgins Lake will be much like in 2023, with typically one patrol boat on Saturdays and Sundays and some random weekday patrols.
- Gerrish township plans to start work on a short-term rental ordinance later this year. Lyon Township is working on an ordinance, but the exact status is unknown.
- Gerrish Township will consider including a listing of permitted road end docks on the Police Department website.

Charlene thanked John for the great job conducting this safety meeting, Thank you, John!

DNR Accesses Data Collection, 2024: HLF (Higgins Lake Foundation) hired two part-time workers for weekend duty at the South State Park boat wash who will do the data collection on arriving boats. Data gathering will begin in June.

AIS Testing at Boat Accesses: Dr. Luttenton will do monthly AIS testing at the seven major boat accesses.

Environmental Committee: Fred reported the following:

May Brown Algae Bloom

It was a nice warm and sunny weekend, and the conditions were ripe for a significant brown algae bloom along the Eastern shore of the big lake. No big mats were seen like last year during a very calm spell. However, with a light Westerly breeze a significant band of algae formed along the shallow waters close to the Western shore. Sadly, this will be an increasingly disturbing situation until the sewer system is in operation and the near shore nutrient load is reduced.

High School Sampling and Analysis of Higgins Lake Waters

This program begins its seventh year with a gathering of the students, their chemistry teacher Gregg Neville and Raven Labs owner John Blizzard at a kick-off gathering on May 22nd. The students will receive their "Life is All About Testing the Waters" tee shirts, an American Chemical Society certificate, do the first round of sampling and analysis around the lake, and wrap up with a pizza party. This year's results will be posted on our website as usual.

GLUA Support Activities

By far the most important environmental project for the benefit of the environmental quality of Higgins Lake in our lifetime is the implementation of a modern sanitary sewer around the lake. The need for this change from the current environment of septic systems throughout the watershed has been shown to be required by every Federal and State regulatory agency, by every Federal and State scientific organization, by every University research study and by our own student scientific work that have considered the issue.

We have been actively supporting the Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority (GLUA) to successfully proceed with this project in every way that we have been able. This month's activity has been focused on obtaining supporting funds from a major local benevolent family foundation. After submitting a Letter of Intent (LOI) last month, GLUA received an invitation to continue the process of seeking their financial support by submitting a formal grant request to their board of directors for consideration this summer.

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We are hoping for a positive response in June.

HLSIO: Greg reported the following:

HLSIO (Higgins Lake Swimmer's Itch Organization) met on May 15th and discussed activities for this summer. As concerns goose control, Goose Busters has already been to Higgins Lake and were able to destroy 7 goose nests and 36 eggs as part of our program.

We may assess a new relocation site for common merganser this summer for exclusive use of Higgins Lake. This site will be near Tawas and will help expedite the relocation process for Higgins Lake.

We are still recruiting new volunteers for the water study (we have one additional at this time). HLSIO has confirmed that we will be having a fundraiser dinner at Witt's barn on Thursday, August 15th and it will once again be catered by Fred's. We will have a flyer shortly with details that can be used as advertising for ticket sale purposes. I plan to send information via email to our members a couple times between now and the date of the event.

HLPAC: Greg reported the following:

HLPAC is meeting this Wednesday to discuss plans for our involvement regarding the August primary. We will likely be sending out questionnaires to various candidates and also conducting Zoom interviews when possible. Elections of note for our area will be board seats for the county commissioners as well as Gerrish and Lyon Townships. All candidates were confirmed at the end of April, and I have already spoken to some about communicating with our board. The county clerk says that there are more people running for offices now than at any time in the past. The HLPAC intends to make our research available to our members via email after we speak to the candidates.

Ongoing Business: Regarding SB (Senate Bill) 662, Greg reported there is no update and no scheduled hearing. Possible guest speakers for the annual meeting were discussed. Charlene stated that Attorney Bill Carey will be there to discuss MRTA (Marketable Record Title Act). Greg said that the Gerrish Fire Department will be represented with a lieutenant to discuss Central Dispatch and how calls are distributed, along with the new fire hall millage. Charlene suggested we show a video about the new chemistry teacher at Roscommon High School, highlighting the students' water analysis sampling program.

Board members were asked to look for candidates for the Board vacancy position.

New Business: Greg asked Board members to help identify any lake associations they may know. This will be useful to send group initiatives to their contacts.

Adjournment: Herb moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Curt. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 A.M.

The next meeting will be June 17, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

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