

CEDAR LAKE RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Autumn Meeting Minutes, August 29, 2020

President Jane Harvey called the meeting to order in Porter Township Hall at 9 a.m. and welcomed the 30 people present. She introduced officers and area representatives, noting that there is an opening for the Area 7 representative along Cornish Shores and that the representative in area 5 of Becker Beach and Bluff Drive, Ann Poehlman, would like a volunteer to replace her.

Newcomers: Diane Battaglia welcomed new families to the lake. Mike and Lynn Steil have built a new home in Cedarama. Ralph and Kathy Rzucek bought the Hokanson home on Cedar Cove Court. John and Laura Greiner are on Bluff Drive.

Finances: Treasurer Chris Onderlinde reported an ending balance of \$5,780.53 after income from dues and logo merchandise, and expenses from liability insurance, newsletter and misc. The gain from a year ago was \$1,387.73. The report was approved.

Water quality: Dane Terrill reported that water clarity is about the same as in previous years, measuring 17 feet in June and 12 feet in August. Testing for phosphorous, halted because laboratories were closed due to Covid 19, will resume.

Minutes: Barb Walters read the minutes from the spring meeting, which were approved.

Logo items: Jim Walters reported that the company that supplies the Cedar Lake logo items expects to have a website up and running in time to order items for Christmas.

Invasive plant control: Jane displayed a map of weed locations in the lake as recorded by PLM, the firm that the lake pays to control invasive weeds. Including Starry Stonewort by the public access site. She said ProcellaCOR herbicide has been shown to be safer than aspirin.

Geese: Petitions to allow residents to destroy goose eggs and nests for up to five years must be gathered by hand and include 70 percent of riparian owners, or about 112 residences. Geese are attracted by mown grass near the waters' edge.

Bankson Lake Drain: Bankson Lake homeowners Len and Barb Pschigoda spoke seeking support from the Cedar Lake association for an inter-county drain to control flooding of some Bankson properties. Their home is among eight or nine houses reportedly affected. The \$1.3 million project would be financed over seven years costing about \$100 per property. There have been two lawsuits against it and strong public sentiment on both sides of the issue. The Van Buren - Cass County Drainage board and the Drain Commissioner will decide

the outcome of the proposal, which was initiated with petitions in 2019.

Shoreline care: Doug McLaughlin reported on the “Score the Shore” program which rates the collective shoreline of a given lake, based on how well that shoreline protects the cleanliness and quality of the lake. He said that increased pollution and erosion results from lawns maintained close to the shoreline and from vertical seawalls. In his initial survey of Cedar Lake, Cedar Lake scored 56 out of 100, which is slightly below the state median. Wetlands provide a natural buffer that cleanses and maintains water quality in the rest of the lake and provides habitat for plant, animal and bird species that are an essential part of the lake ecosystem. Shoreline designs that include native plantings and boulders are best. Much information on this topic is available from Michigan State University Extension, the Van Buren Conservation office at www.vanburencd.org. Also, EGLE: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, which conducts the water testing for Cedar Lake. You can contact egle-wrd-aip.gov, www.Michigan.gov/invasives.

Lake level: The level is down. Water is still coming out of the drain but only at a third to a half of capacity. Jane will ask that the drain be looked at again. Mary Mauk asked if there had been recent consideration of having the county set an official

level. The level was set too high when the drain was established in 1995, according to Jim Walters, who was involved with several other lake residents.

Wake boats: The possibility of a no wake zone especially in the south east part of the lake with very high water was discussed. Several close calls with wake boats were described. The need for all motorized boats to stay 100 feet from shore and other boats was reiterated. However, the impact of the boats' wake on the shoreline even at that distance is powerful.

A new directory will soon be underway.

Submitted by Barb Walters