

CEDAR LAKE RECREATION ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING JUNE 13, 2020

President Jane Harvey called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. at Porter Township Hall. About 25 people were in attendance with chairs arranged for social distancing due to the Corona-19 virus. She welcomed members and introduced the area representatives and board members: Joe Weist, vice president, Chris Onderlinde, treasurer, and Barb Walters, secretary; Ann Poehlman, who is looking to be replaced after serving many years as area 5 rep. New members welcomed were Chris Dueuer, Michelle Cornish and Kathy McCormick. Deceased members Wendy Cornish and Past President Dick Vlasak were recognized.

Treasurer's Report Approved: Chris Onderlinde reported that total income in 2019 from dues and merchandise was \$2727. Total expenses were \$1344.29. The starting balance was \$4397.82 and ending \$5780.53 for a gain of \$1387.71

Water Quality Report: Dane Terrill reported that because state labs were shut down due to the Corona virus, water samples could not be analyzed. He did take a Secchi disc reading which indicated 17.5 feet of clarity. President Jane reported that PLM, the firm hired to manage the lake's weeds, will do the testing for \$625. Since there is \$56,000 in the special assessment district, and with lake treatment expenses down to about \$11,000 yearly because only spot treatment is now needed, she took the initiative in May to procure board approval for PLM to do the testing. She stipulated testing be performed at the same locations so the results can be mapped. This will include testing for O2 and e-coli.

August 2019 meeting minutes approved as read.

4th of July 2019 Parade Award: Joe Weist announced that the second place winning boat not identified last year belongs to Jeff and Kristen McConnell who can now collect their \$50 in prize bucks.

New business:

Weed Control: President Jane displayed an aerial map of the lake showing that Eurasian milfoil is being kept under control with spot treatment by PLM using

Purcell, a chemical she said is very safe. However, Purcell does not kill curly leaf pondweed, another invasive plant in the lake. Both plants remain a problem at the public access site.

She said the association spent about \$10,000 last year on chemicals, and that the lake will always need treatment for a variety of reasons. However, bass boats in tournaments are very conscientious about cleaning their boats. It was suggested that Apollo Marine and other lift installers be contacted to alert them to the importance of washing their equipment before launching.

PLM estimates it will bill the association for \$11,500 this year with a three-year guarantee for the chemical.

Floating brush: The danger of tree branches partially submerged off Cedar Cove was discussed. Joe Weist volunteered to pull the branches across the lake to the property of Cordell Jones, who offered to dispense of them with his tractor.

Goose problem: Residents approved a motion to circulate a petition that, if signed by owners of 70 percent of the riparian property, would give permission for residents to destroy nests and eggs of geese for a period of five years. The petition will be included in the newsletter along with more information.

Dues: The newsletter will ask residents to mail their dues into Treasurer Chris Onderlinde, 89855 Shorelane Drive, Lawton, MI 49065. Dues are \$20.

Shoreline habitat to discourage geese and discourage erosion: Barb Walters offered information from the Michigan Lakes and Streams conference, including how to keep lake water free of algae and growth by avoiding fertilizer within 50 feet of the shore line. Treated, mown lawns at the shore attract geese, unlike native plants. The DEQ and other agencies offer lakes a program that offers information on how to improve shorelines by using native plants and other natural materials as a buffer between a lawn and the shore. The program also offers scoring for lakes to assess how effective their shorelines are at keeping the lake healthy.

Overfishing at fish beds: Fish science states that fish population is lost with overfishing on fish beds. Large wakes breaking over the beds can damage them.

Invasive species: Be on the lookout for Asian carp and grass carp that have been found to be breeding in Lake Huron and Lake Erie. Another highly prolific threat is the Virgin crayfish, so called because it does not need two genders to reproduce. Recognizable by its marbled outer coating, it does not threaten our lake so far.

Lake level: The Michigan Department of Transportation has been regularly cleaning the culvert by M-40 that runs into Little Cedar Lake. The county drain commissioner has been trying to make the drain at the other end of Little Cedar drain smoothly out. It's now possible to clean the drain gate at that location because the new residents there are cooperating with her, according to President Jane. Now there is as much water draining out as possible, she said.

No wake zone: A no-wake zone is being highly recommended at the east end of the lake, where several homes are experiencing water near or in their homes, exacerbated by wakes from high speed boats. Even though it would help if this zone is observed, the entire lake is actually too small for the wakes of the new wake boats that generate powerful waves that crash into the shore, said Joe Weist. Nevertheless under Department of Environmental Quality regulations a lake is either all-sport or no-wake. The DEQ has recognized the effect of wake boats on inland lakes as a serious safety issue as well as an environmental issue.

Mission Statement: The modification to the Cedar Lake mission statement supported by vote at the August, 2019 meeting, will eliminate the word "safe" because there is no way the association can ensure that accidents won't occur.

Fourth of July Parade: As association vice president, Joe Weist will lead the parade that will begin at 9 pm. The theme choices will be broad: Covid, tropical and patriotic unity. The rain date will be Sunday, July 5.

Comments and questions: The popular poker run, held alternate years, needs a new chairman after the long and highly successful leadership of Don Dewey. Responding to another question, President Jane said that harvesting weeds is generally not a good idea along the shore because when segments break off, they can re-root. Several residents commented on the large area of woody plant debris at the northwest portion of the lake.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Submitted by Barb Walters, secretary