

## CEDAR LAKE RECREATION ASSOCIATION MEETING

June 12, 2021 Porter Township Hall

President Jane Harvey called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. and introduced the area representatives and officers. About 40 people were present.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted. There was a balance of \$5,387 at the end of 2020.

Dane Terrill reported that the water quality testing has been delayed by issues with the DNR website. Members voted to pay Professional Lake Management (PLM) \$625 to conduct that testing at least until the website is functional.

Area 7 on Shorelane Drive continues to be the only area without representation .

The minutes from the August, 2020 meeting were read and accepted.

Officer Jason Fisk from the Marine Division of the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department spoke and answered questions. Since his division covers 124 inland lakes, 76 of which have public accesses, plus the Lake Michigan shoreline, officers cannot be omnipresent. However, regulations are explained at Mi.Gov under Boater Safety. Fisk said his main goal in stopping a boat is to find safety violations such as old and non-functional life jackets and fire extinguishers. New this year is the regulation that anybody born after December, 1996 must carry a boater safety course certificate. Anybody born after December, 1978 using a personal water craft (jet ski) must likewise have a boater safety certificate. The certificate must be in the person's possession or attached to the vessel. Otherwise there have been only minor changes in regulations.

Officers do not need a reason to stop a boat. Kayaks are required to have a Personal Flotation Device but not paddle boards. It's not legal to smoke marijuana on the boat, but only if the boater is acting under the influence and unsafe would he stop the boat, Fisk said.

Asked about wake boats, he said their effect on shorelines is an issue on almost all lakes. Setting up buoys to limit access, though, is problematic because once the areas are established and approved they are almost impossible to remove.

Fisk concluded by encouraging lake residents to call him and the department with issues.

Barb Walters reiterated that fertilizer used near the lake decreases water quality by contributing to weed and algae growth, and increases the lawn's attractiveness to geese. A natural barrier of at least 25 feet between the lake and the water is recommended.

Doug McLaughlin, a resident of Becker Beach, will be the association's liaison with PLM regarding issues of water quality. Doug recently retired as a water quality specialist and has several advanced degrees in this topic. Our property values, and the characteristics that drew us to Cedar Lake in the first place, he said, depend on our keeping invasive species in check while at the same time maintaining natural species that preserve the lakes water quality and fisheries. Doug has already been in conversation with PLM and is working to put together a data-based trend line and set realistic goals.

Jane added that the Cedar Lake riparians spent \$12,000 out of their SAD for invasives with PLM for weed control in 2020. She is trying to get a map on the association web site to show where the problem areas are and what areas will be treated. Harvesting is not effective because it spreads the invader to other parts of the lake. Bacterial augmentation has been shown to have mixed results, she said.

Wade Bent announced that the popular Poker Run will be held August 14 from 2 to 5, with a rain date of Aug. 15. The award ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m at the Bent residence on Graham Beach in the cove.

Petitions to allow tactics to discourage geese are being circulated.

Jane reviewed several species of invasive species that are not yet in Cedar Lake but could cause problems here if they are allowed to take hold. Residents are the

first line of defense against these aliens by informing themselves about the appearance and location of the weeds, and informing the association so that PLM can be made aware of them.

The Fourth of July boat parade will be held July 3 beginning at 9 p.m at the dock of Grand Marshall Joe Weist, Becker Beach. The rain date will be July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Cedar Lake is not in the drain district that would be assessed if a proposed drain for Bankson Lake is approved.

Pete Cornish spoke about trumpet swans, a Michigan native, and their decreased numbers compared to the more aggressive, and non-native, mute swan. A vote was taken to ask the DNR to promote trumpet swans.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Barb Walters