

MINUTES OF 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF HOGBACK PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

The 2011 annual meeting of Hogback Lake Property Owners Association was held at the Rose Lake Township Hall, Leroy, Michigan on Saturday, July 2, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. pursuant to Notice of Meeting mailed to all known members and as posted on the Rose Lake Township Hall on May 27, 2011.

The following officers were present:

Mike Higgins, President
Ed Ysseldyke, Vice-President
Clorinda Starlin, Secretary

absent: Joanne Piechocki, Treasurer

and the following members of the current Board of Directors: Ott Shaw, Ed Ysseldyke, Mike Curnett, Mike Warren, Dan Beachnau, and an additional approximately 14 members.

President, Mike Higgins called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

The 2010 minutes and 2010 Treasurer's Report were approved with no objections or corrections.

President Higgins indicated the lake level is currently being maintained at 12" as approved at the 2009 annual meeting and again at the 2010 annual meeting (see 2010 Minutes for a copy of the resolution).

Ott Shaw said the level is at 12 inches on the boards; this is the highest it's been in a long time and hopes it works for everybody.

President Higgins asked for unfinished business from last year.

The President indicated Joanne Piechocki has advised she is resigning as treasurer and asked for nominations for treasurer to fill her unexpired term. President Higgins suggested Bob Richards, seconded by Kevin Hackett. Unanimously approved. Bob Richards will act as Treasurer until the election of officers.

Lou Higgins gave a presentation of the 4th of July activities being held on the lake today. Additionally, luminaries are available for 6 luminaries and bags for \$3.00 per lot.

Once again, the kiddie parade will be in progress from noon today until 1:00. All big boats, pontoons, etc. are requested to stay off the lake for that short time to allow the kids to make their way around the lake for their safety.

There is a Piggy Poker Run this afternoon with 5 stops. All will be marked with balloons, etc. The cost is \$1.00 per hand and you can draw your cards at each stop or all at one stop or however you wish to chance it. The prizes can be picked up at Mike and Lou Higgins' house.

The volleyball contest - north side against the south side - from 4:00 to 6:00 will be at Ty and Brenda Murphy's on the north side of the lake.

Everyone is asked to stay away from the barge when the fireworks start tonight. Eric does the fireworks; he's licensed and is governed by strict rules, etc. They will probably start around 10:00 p.m. tonight. Eric does a terrific job and will probably spend most of today just getting ready for the fireworks' display tonight.

There was a question as to whether the association pays for any of the fireworks. The fireworks are covered entirely by donations; nothing is paid from association funds. Fireworks are strictly by contributions and

the contributions don't normally even cover the cost of the fireworks, so if you haven't contributed and enjoy the fireworks, please feel free to send or hand deliver your contribution to Brenda Murphy on the north side or Lou Higgins on the south side.

Ott requested that at the end of the fireworks for everyone to hold a flag and go out on the beach and everyone sing "God Bless America" in keeping with the observance of July 4. Hopefully, we will have a large turnout for that and can make that an annual tradition.

Lou Higgins announced a new contest for next year for "best decorated cottage on the lake." There will be a poster with rules. If you want to enter it, you will need to decorate your property on Friday prior to the annual meeting; members can then go around the lake and voting will be done at the last stop of the Piggy Poker Run on Saturday and the property with the most votes will win a cash prize. More info to follow on that.

President Higgins asked for any other old business. There was none.

President Higgins then asked for any new business. Mike Warren felt the website is not being updated often enough; that there hasn't been a lot of new information posted. Kevin Hackett agreed, but added that he has been on the road a lot due to the press of business. Mike indicated he would be glad to assist Kevin and they agreed to work on that. Mike would like to see it updated every 3 months or so.

Bob Richards had a question regarding access to the boat launch. It was stated that anyone on the lake and back lot owners have access to the lake by way of the three access sites on the lake. In addition to the one on the south side of the lake, there is a 20 foot easement at the southeast end of the lake by the Deverman residence. There is a third access site in the general area of Joe Warren's property, but it is difficult to use, as it is a steep hill; it's pretty hard to get in and out of there. There was a question as to who owned the access sites. There was a belief that it was owned by the south side road association. Ott indicated they are deeded sites for all property owners of Hogback Lake, but mostly for back lot people to use for access to the lake. The access sites are owned by the lake association. The road association has nothing to do with the sites and they're for swimming and launching boats, but not to leave boats, etc. tied there to interfere with swimming and use by others. There was some discussion by Kevin as to the large number of boats that would be in and out during this holiday weekend.

Bob Richards asked about a boat launch being put in at one of the other access sites. There are standards for that and it would have to go through the DEQ. The access site by Deverman's has a large Maple tree growing in the site; it's on a curve and would be hard to back into.

Lou Higgins said when they were up in February, the main boat launch site had a tremendous amount of garbage, debris, etc. left by unknown persons. If anyone sees that happening, please mention it to the people leaving the mess that the boat launch is not a dumping ground.

Mike Curnett mentioned that he thought the weeds are better this year. Bob Richards and Mike Higgins indicated they're worse; it's just that the water's higher. We would like to see everyone go out and pull some weeds in. Ott has a contraption which requires the use of two pontoons and works very well. Ott says it's not Milfoil, it's Naiad, a natural weed for the lake and area, but there is milfoil around in McCoy so everyone needs to make sure when bringing in boats that they're completely cleaned off, bottoms, etc., or the Milfoil is going to wind up in our lake.

President Higgins requested a motion to adjourn.

Mike Curnett had a question regarding the resolution in the 2010 minutes regarding the lake level and the board issue at 12 inches and the reference in those minutes regarding: "anything over 12 starts to cause grief for people." His question was what was the "grief." There was a comment that some of the grief includes water getting close to septic systems. Dan Beachnau, Lou Higgins, Ott Shaw, Pam Hoagland all commented on issues that come into play when the water is too high. The main purpose of the lake association is to monitor the level of the lake because of issues in prior years when the water would get too high and flood cottages out.

(It was impossible for me to write down everything [in shorthand as I was attempting to do] everyone was saying due to several people talking at the same time; people cutting people off, etc. - If anyone who was at the meeting feels any of this is not correct, please send me an e-mail or letter and I will attach it to the minutes for clarification).

Ott said if you are up here during the first part of May this year, you would have seen the lake at 19-3/4"; it went up to 22" because of water running across the road on the Pine Grove; the beavers had it dammed up.

Mike wanted to know if anyone had actually been damaged by the water being too high. Dan Beachnau indicated that they had to put in a new septic system at one time due to the high water. The cottage on the point by the canal was a lot under water at one time a few years ago. Dan commented it is more than "grief." The water being too high has caused actual damages to various property owners and with only the few members who attended, it was impossible to get input from all of those owners.

Ott stated to Mike that he had bought his property at a time when the water was high and he hadn't investigated the history of the lake levels.

A comment was made that now that the water is lower, he wants the water to be higher to benefit his lot, regardless of the consequences for other property owners. Mike said there are alternatives - like putting in a pump that puts out 90,000 gallons of water an . . . and was cut off by comments by several members.

Mike said he "was told to make my comments in the minutes." Mike indicated he has spoken with the DNR, DEQ, the Drain Commissioner and an attorney and they have all told him that our association cannot control the level of the lake legally the way we are; that it's illegal to do it this way; you can't control the water level in Michigan the way we're doing it. The Drain Commissioner said it was illegal. He says the DEQ has to come out and they will determine the correct level of the lake. Ott said he would take exception to that statement; he does not believe that is true and others agreed. Ott said we could call in the Army Corp. of Engineers to build a system for the lake, whereby at certain times when the level is low on the east side, the lake could be tipped that way to appease those property owners and when the level is low on the other side, the lake could be tipped that way to appease the property owners on the other side of the lake. We will never have 100% agreement as to the lake level. Ott said we are trying to keep everybody around the lake as happy as possible, but there is no way you are going to have everyone perfectly happy. It's an impossible and thankless job.

After much additional discussion, the President indicated the discussions weren't going anywhere; we weren't accomplishing anything; that Mike should do whatever he feels necessary he must do to get done whatever he wants done for the benefit of his property. We are just going around and around, not accomplishing anything.

President Higgins asked for motion and second to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Dan Beachnau to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Hackett and approved.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JOANNE PIECHOCKI FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ASSOCIATION AS TREASURER AND TO ALL OF THE MEMBERS WHO MAKE EVERYTHING HAPPEN AND RUN SMOOTHLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Clorinda Starlin, Secretary

P.S. Please e-mail me your e-mail address (if you don't mind if it is added to the member roster) and any information regarding new owners and/or owners who are no longer around, i.e. moved, etc. so I can keep my mailing addresses current.

I received the following mailings back: Scott Brainerd, Robert Standish, Barbara J. Smith and Glenna Jones. If anyone has information as to current address and/or if they no longer own property on the lake, please let me know. Thanks. Clorinda

My e-mail address is: chloiemae1964@yahoo.com.