

Lake George Property Owners Association Membership Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2011

A. Called to order by President Rolf Hudson at 10:00a.m./Pledge of Allegiance

B. Roll Call:

Present: Rolf Hudson, Kim Hamilton, Roger Carey, Fred Evenson, Pat Swanson, Marcia Wentworth, David DeLeeuw, Deb Briggs, Marie Garner, Merle Harmon, Cindy Engelhardt

C. Minutes: May 29, 2011 General Membership Meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.

D. A volunteer fireman requested interruption to the meeting to explain the fireman's "Pass the Boot" campaign to support Muscular Dystrophy and inform the group of the new fire truck available for viewing outside the Township Hall. The boot was passed among the attendees.

E. Treasurer's Report: Treasurers Report was made available to membership. Marcia Wentworth reviewed with the membership. The report accepted as written.

F. Correspondences: We received a notification of ADA accommodations being made at Shingle Lake Park. No action required of LGPOA.

G. Introduction of Board

H. Guest Speaker: Tom Schunk from County Wide Septic spoke to the group about septic systems and the effects on lakes. He emphasized the need for maintaining a good functioning system. Handouts were made available. There was a question about using copper sulfate to clean a septic system. It was noted that this would decrease the amount of "good" bacteria in the system. Additional questions about use of additional bacteria i.e. "Ridex" or yeast. It was noted this would not be a problem. Tom reinforced that new septic systems are to be 50 feet from the lake; old systems that do not follow this rule cannot be replaced and the root systems from vegetation/trees/plants can adversely affect a septic system. Printed information about septic systems was made available to the membership. Kim Hamilton noted that County Wide was a business that supports the LGPOA.

I. Board Election: There were six positions available on the Board. Ballots for the election of Board Members were distributed. Four existing members were on the ballot: Pat Swanson, Roger Carey, Merle Harmon, and Fred Evenson. Two additional persons were nominated: Bill Bringer and Sandy Kotch-Myers. No other nominations were made. It was motioned that the membership unanimously accept the nominees. The motion passed.

J. Committee Reports

1. Auditing: Marie Garner reported that an audit of the books was done on Aug 31 by Deb Briggs, Maggie Carey and herself. No discrepancies were found.
2. Boat Parade: Marie Garner reported there were 10 boats in the parade. The theme was Captains Choice. It was truly a family event and went very well. The winning families (first through fourth place) were: Ray, Little, Eldridge, and Harmon. Marie encouraged people to participate in 2012 and asked that they consider volunteering to be judges. A suggestion was made that there be ribbons given to all participants as there is a good amount of effort that goes into decorating the boats. Marie agreed

and will address this at the next board meeting.

3. Education:

Boater Safety/Education: Fred Evenson identified that there were 25 participants in the Boater Safety class held July 16. Everyone passed. Handouts about boater safety were made available to the membership.

ORV Class: Dave DeLeeuw reported 18 people wrote the final test at the June 25 ORV Safety Program and all passed. He noted that some states require everyone to take this class. There were questions asked about the "rule of law" related to operating an ORV and were golf carts considered ORV's.

Dave explained first of all golf carts are ORV's. Secondly all ORV drivers must have a valid driver's license or ORV safety certificate. Also, helmets are required unless there is an approved roll-over bar, windshield and the driver is wearing safety belt. He did say, however, these rules are not strictly enforced here in Lincoln Township, but could be in the future.

There was an additional question about how old a person needed to be to drive a golf cart. Based on the Michigan ORV Safety Guidebook, a 10 year old with an ORV safety certificate may operate an ORV under visual supervision.

Material pertaining to ORV safety was made available to the membership.

Hunters Safety: Dave DeLeeuw informed the membership that the Hunter Safety Program would not be offered by the LGPOA as it is a two day program and repetitious of the one offered by Jay's Sporting Goods.

4. Directory: Kim Hamilton announced that the directory will be completed and mailed to all members the first quarter of 2012. There was discussion about including e-mail address. It was decided that: If a person would like their e-mail address put in the directory, they should include that information on their membership form or contact Roger or Maggie Carey, who maintain the name/address info.

6. Financial Planning: Deb Briggs presented the financial plan and budget to the Membership, noting that LGPOA keeps \$20,000 earmarked in the account to assure monies are available should there be a need for weed treatment over and above what the township pays. The membership was given a list of suggested projects for the LGPOA to consider, and asked to select five and prioritize the five with number one being their top priority. Deb explained the overall top five would be reviewed and investigated by the Board and then projects would be selected based on priority, funding and feasibility.

7. Lake Quality: Roger Carey made available to members a written report on Lake Quality. He addressed low lake levels. After investigating, the only explanation is the decrease in rain/snow and evaporation.

Regarding eel grass and harvesting: it is noted there is a great deal of money required to curb the presence of eel grass which is an indigenous plant. At this point the subject will not be pursued by the LGPOA.

On the subject of disposing of shrink wrap; Roger was not able to fully investigate and mentioned he would encourage those interested to investigate further. Chip Steiber volunteered to carry this subject further.

8. Membership: Roger Carey noted there are presently 248 LGPOA members and

three businesses. Two new members were added at this meeting: Don and Kate Adams and Dan Levriere. Attendees were encouraged to let others know about the association and to update their membership information.

9. Merchandise: Cindy Engelhardt encouraged all members to purchase their inventory reduction sale logo merchandise available at the meeting.
10. Newsletter/Education: Roger Carey reported the Winter News Letter will be out early January 2012. Addresses for mailing will be obtained from the directory. Anyone that desires an e-mail Newsletter can identify their desire to Roger.
11. Softball Tournament: Rolf Hudson reported the tournament was held Father's Day weekend. Ten teams participated. For the second year in a row the L.C. Tire team won. All participants had a good time.

Rolf commented that the community benefits from the tournament and due to conflicts with "down state" tournaments, next year's tournament will be one week sooner: June 9 and 10, 2012.

Members were encouraged to volunteer their time to help make the 2012 tournament an even bigger success.

12. Township Liaison: Fred Evenson passed his report to Dennis Zimmerman, Township Supervisor. Dennis reported that he had investigated the lower level of Shingle Lake. He noted the natural drainage into the lake had been interrupted by a person making a duck pond. Additionally, he noted the wet land area is down. A member noted that a tree had fallen and was blocking a spill way. Dennis will investigate.

The West Lake Drive paving project is near completion. There had been some delays due to power lines but this has been addressed.

The Township is meeting with County Emergency Alert personnel and County Commissioners to correct a situation that occurred June 8, 2011 when Lincoln Township tornado warning sirens did not go off when they should have. Equipment and policy changes have been made which will assure all county emergency alarm systems will go off when there is an emergency.

The Lake George Post Office has survived the latest Postal Service cuts. All members are encouraged to use our local post office.

The new fire-rescue truck was a major purchase for the township. Members were encouraged to see it either after the meeting or by stopping by the fire station.

This past July the township had received a phone inquiry about opening a medical marijuana shop in Lake George. A special meeting had been set up to review the subject with the requestor however the person never responded.

A member commented that there was a problem with people parking in the boat access turn-around. Dennis stated this was a DNR issue.

A member suggested selling the compost from the township site. Dennis informed him this was not possible as the DNR grant used to create the site specifically stated there could be no profit from it's creation. There was also discussion about the compost site hours. It was stated that all Township Board members have keys to the site and may be contacted for access.

13. Website: www.LGPOA.net

K. Neighborhood Watch: Jan Penton talked with the membership about Neighborhood Watch. She noted there is now an extensive e-mail tree where people involved with the program are given updates from the deputies who patrol the township.

Jan thanked Tammy Howel for her part in obtaining \$1,500.00 from Trans Canada to support the Neighborhood Watch Program in Clare County. The money will be use for signs, literature, posters, etc. She asked that we all keep our eyes and ears open and invited people to attend the NW meetings held on the second Thursday of every month, 2:00p.m. at the Township Hall.

On an off-agenda item Jan talked briefly about the VFW/American Legion "Wreathes Across America" program. This program purchases wreaths, which are placed on the graves of veterans by volunteers on the 2nd Saturday in December. Last year 500 wreathes were placed in two cemeteries. This year five cemeteries will be serviced including Freeman and Lake George. Anyone interested in donating to this cause can contact Jan or any VFW/American Legion Hall.

L. Old Business: None

M. New Business

1. Elmer Crandel introduced himself to the membership as the person living the longest period of time on Lake George. He has been on Lake George since 1949.
2. Marie Garner thanked all those who brought baked goods.
3. 50/50 Raffle: \$70.00 went to the winner. Two logo items were given out.

N. Adjournment: 11:40 a.m.