

**Harper Lake Association Membership Meeting**  
**Elk Township Hall, Irons, MI**  
**Saturday, June 27, 2020**  
**9:00 A.M.**

Meeting was called to order at Elk Township Hall by Karen Brower at 9 A.M.

We started our meeting with our guest speaker, Sherriff Rich Martin. Sherriff Martin discussed the challenges of these times due to the Covid-19 virus. His department has had limited resources and funding for the year. Lake County is home to 156 lakes that are patrolled by the Marine Division of the Sherriff's Department. This department consists of 2-3 part time marine deputies and 1 recreational sheriff. The funding for his department comes from DNR grants and private donations. A new boat was also purchased with private donations. Sherriff Martin has an Explorer program for youth (6<sup>th</sup> grade thru 20 yrs. old) that did a can drive during the Covid shut down of bottle and can returns. They were able to raise over \$7,000 in returnable donations that was donated to the Luther Lions Club. You may reach Sherriff Martin by emailing him at [RMARTIN@CO.LAKE.MI.US](mailto:RMARTIN@CO.LAKE.MI.US).

Introduction of the 6 board members and the 22 other members in attendance.

**Secretary Report:** A motion to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2019 HLA membership meeting was made by Dick Blumstein, seconded by Gail Brown. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Treasurer Report**

The Bank Statement Balance as of June 26, 2020 was \$17,409.24. We have received Harper Lake Association Membership dues from 81 people at the time of this meeting. We budget for 85 paying members.

We currently have \$300 in Directory ads for the 2020 year. We budgeted \$75.

There has been \$1007.50 donated to this year's Fish Stocking program. We budgeted \$800. We have \$207.50 left over to use towards an additional fish stocking or carry over until next year. We budgeted \$100 for Harper Lake Day and received \$237.50 at this time. Elk Township will need to reimburse HLA for the Milfoil Permit that we paid by mistake. The township is responsible for the bill under the SAD contract, for the amount of \$400. Expenses include buoy maintenance, website, P.O. box, corporate fees, and insurance for the association.

Karren Moler made a motion to accept the Treasurers report with a second by Joyce McDonald. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

1. Special Assessment District update:

Our associations SAD is a 7-year assessment which is included on our lake residents tax bill for the amount of \$50 dollars. Our association manages the assessment with PLM but we control the scheduling and monitoring. We budgeted \$3,000 for the current year and have spent \$1,573.90 to date. Monies not used at the end of the year get rolled over to the next year. At the end of the 7 years any money not spent will be returned to the property owners. Additional costs are incurred from a 1% township treasurer and clerk facilitation costs. During our meeting Bob McDonald suggested we include a break-down of the yearly SAD costs and weed control applications in a separate financial report.

2. Membership Dues Reduction Decision:

Now that all property owners of Harper Lake are paying for weed-control we are recommending a dues reduction. The board has recommended reducing the dues to \$40 or \$45. Our By-Laws, Article VIII, Section II require a prior written notification, which was completed, and a vote at the membership meeting.

A motion was made by Scott Reyburn to amend lower the membership dues from \$55 to \$45. A second was made by Dick Blumstein. All in favor. Motion passed.

**New Business:**

1. By-laws Amendment Proposal:

We are asking for a By-law amendment to Article V, Section 2b., which states; If elected, a director may serve for three consecutive two-year terms. We are asking to amend it to say four consecutive two-year terms. A motion to change the mentioned by-law was made by Bill Stimer, seconded by Gail Brown. All in favor. Motion passed.

2. Local Lake Association Co-Op meeting:

Harper Lake has been participating in a Lake Association Co-Op which works with the DNR and Forest service sharing information about water and weed treatments. Kevin Storberg has been participating as a representative from Harper Lake. Due to Covid restrictions the group hasn't meet on a regular basis but will continue to do so as restrictions are lifted. The lakes participating in this Co-Op are Harper Lake, Loon Lake, Elbow Lake, Bass Lake and Cool Lake. Currently, Harper Lake is the only lake that has the invasive weed called Starry Stonewort.

**Committee Reports:**

1. Harper Lake Day:

We will start the day with the Kids Annual Fishing Contest hosted by the Toy family and the Brown Family. Registration will be at 6:30 A.M. and the contest will end at 9 A.M. 1<sup>ST</sup> place awarded for the best 3 bluegill catch-total length. 2<sup>nd</sup> place awarded for the longest bluegill. Volunteers are always welcome to participate. The Scavenger Hunt will be hosted at the May family dock again this year. Modifications will be made to accommodate for Covid restrictions.

After a slow sign up for the Float Parade dock captains we are happy to report we have a full crew this year with 8 Docks! Cards can be picked up at any participating dock from 2-4. Turn in completed cards by 4:30 and the drawing will take place at 5:30.

2. Fish & Water Fowl:

We were able to put in 1,000 perch this year for the fish stocking program. The perch were 4-5 inches long. At the time of this meeting there have been signs of them surviving well and we are hopeful for a good season. The minnow population is looking good as well. We had very generous donations again this year and have approximately \$200 left to use. We can always apply for another permit for an additional fish stocking.

3. Weed control:

PLM was out in June to spray for invasive weeds under our contract with them and our SAD. The weed control isn't worse at this time but it's not getting any better. We will continue to monitor the lake along with PLM. We have new signs at the boat launch explaining the State Laws about cleaning boats and other water craft before putting into any lake. We had anticipated having a boat cleaning machine in the Irons area during this summer. Due to Covid we were unable to do so.

4. Directory: Heather Davis was instrumental in getting our directory out this year. We were able to secure 12 advertisers in our directory that help offset the costs incurred. Heather plans on improving the directory with more ads in the future and addressing any changes that need to be made. If your information is incorrect, please contact us.

5. Newsletter:

This spring we sent out a large packet of information. This included our newsletter, our directory, by-laws amendment information sheet, Harper Lake lake rules, Harper Lake day information sheet, boat cleaning flyer, Harper Lake apparel order sheet, PLM weed control notification.

6. Website:

Karen Brower continues to do an amazing job on our website! Karen sends out important HLA by updating our website, emailing our members, or the quickest way to reach our members, a Facebook post.

7. Facebook:

In addition to the being HLA president, maintaining our website, writing our newsletter, Karen also takes care of our HLA Facebook page. Thank you, Karen!

8. Harper Lake Apparel:

Heather Davis has set up an account with Morgan at [www.mggreek.com/harper-lake](http://www.mggreek.com/harper-lake) to order apparel. Contact Heather with any questions and to make arrangements for delivery.

9. Boat Launch/Rake:

As mentioned above there are new signs at the boat launch listing the rules for boat cleaning and the dangers of spreading invasive weeds to different lakes. There were many suggestions given, from Harper Lake residents, as to how they clean their boats and emphasizing the importance of maintaining Harper Lake weed control.

10. Road clean-up:

Kevin and Ann Storberg have been organizing volunteers for trash pick-up on Harper Lake Association Adopt-A-Road. Our association takes care of Granger Road between the gravel pit and the Dewitt Bridge. They plan on scheduling a Fall Clean-Up in September. Look for more information coming out to help volunteer.

11. Welcoming:

Contact Heather Davis if you know of a new resident on Harper Lake.

12. By-laws:

Karen will be adding the amended by-laws, that were changed at this meeting, to the website.

Additional Information:

\*Heather and Dawn will work on preparing a list of rental properties on Harper Lake. This list will include the property owner's names and contact information. The board would like a list for informational purposes only. Occasionally there are complaints about a renter and the board is contacted. We would like to address any issues communicably with our Harper Lake property owners.

\*Gypsy Moths are back in the Irons area and the HLA remembers the problems they created in the past. Past HLA boards set in place a healthy reserve in our budget in the event of their return. We would like to hear any thoughts and concerns regarding this issue at our Fall Membership meeting. We would like to meet with past board members to discuss how Gypsy Moths were handled in the past.

A motion to adjourn at 10:26 A.M. was made by Bob McDonald and seconded by Dick Blumstein. All in favor. Motion passed.