

**Harper Lake Membership Meeting
May 28, 2016
9:00 AM**

Board Members Present: Kathy Abbott, Bill Mullaly, Sue Badalucco, Dave Kott, John Gochis, Jim Brown, Karen Brower
Lisa Mullen

49 members attended and each one introduced themselves and signed in
Meeting was called to order at Elk Twp Hall by Sue Badalucco at 9:00 AM.

Secretary Report

The minutes from the September 5, 2016 meeting were approved by the membership. Kevin Storberg motioned to accept with a second by David Kott. All were in favor.

Treasurer Report

The Treasurer report was presented. We have 91 residents who have paid their dues for 2016. This is a little less than last year at this time. The Association's ending balance as of 5/24/2016 is \$18,705.05. A motion to approve the report was made by Brian Ritsema with a second by Kevin Storberg. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Asian Milfoil Treatment - 2016

Jim Brown handed out a packet of information pertaining to the weed control of the lake. The packet included great pictures of the Asian Milfoil. This packet also included the notice from PLM which all should have received through the mail. The treatments will take place during the following weeks; June 6, 2016, July 11, 2016 and August 8, 2016 with an Aquatic assessment taken the week of September 2, 2016. Of course since we did not have a very hard winter we might need more areas treated than normal. We will just have to wait and see after the growth season this summer. A question was asked about how long the lake has been treated for Asian Milfoil and Joyce McDonald stated that it has been at least for 25 years. We have signed a five year contract with PLM for the Milfoil treatment beginning this year (2016). Jim Brown will ask for maps and result reports every year from now on so that he can share this information with the members. Jim also stated that there are new Michigan laws pertaining to the moving of boats from one lake to another. If this is not watched, we could be at risk for other species of weeds which could destroy beautiful Harper Lake. There are ten new plants that are on the state's watch list. The Association will continue to sponsor the Asian Milfoil control. The native weed control is a very controversial subject among the residents thus the Association will not sponsor the native weed control. The majority of the native weeds in the lake are needed for fish habitat. The cost for the Asian Milfoil control is our single most important cost from the dues of \$55 per homeowner. Joyce McDonald stated that Cadillac chose not to treat their lake for 5 years and now the homeowners are being assessed an amount to reach the \$800,000 needed to clean out the lake from the Asian Milfoil that grew very rapidly over those 5 years.

Fish Stocking

Jim Brown stated that the fish stocking is complete. The 900 four to six inch hybrid blue gills were distributed in eight areas of the lake. Five gallons of fathead minnows were released right at the launch site. The hybrid blue gills which are released will reproduce and are supposed to grow approximately two inches per year. Jim Brown stated that he could change the fish species but others have been tried on our lake and did not seem to work. This cost the Association \$1500 which is a great use of money for the lake residents but unless we raise our dues this program possibly will not be able to be covered out of the Association budget. We need to try and get other ways of getting money for this if we want it to continue. We have heard stories of residents catching 11 inch bluegills which are a nice size. A donation request for fish stocking will be added to the dues letter for 2017 dues. Sue Badalucco will present another idea for raising money for fish stocking later during the meeting. Jim Brown will call to see if a sign could be posted at the launch site stating that we as homeowners stock this lake and please respect catch and release.

Poker Run Status

Sue Badalucco stated that Harper Lake Poker Run would not take place after finding out that they are against the law in the state of Michigan. After a long board discussion and speaking with the Michigan State Gaming Board it was decided that an event like this could not be sponsored by the Association. We need to look at other options if the members would like to still have an event over the Fourth of July weekend. The majority of the members present still wanted a social event to take place. Lisa Mullen, Karen Brower and Sue Badalucco will organize some type of event for the HLA. A question was asked as to why a Poker Run had taken place for six years prior. It was stated that sometimes ignorance is bliss. But now knowing the legality and liability issues, it was thought best for it to be discontinued.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Reports

By Law Changes

Lisa Mullen stated that a notification was included in the May newsletter of the following by-law changes that needed to be voted on:

Article III Membership

Section 3

Old: Each member shall be notified in writing at the last address supplied by the member to the Association of all meetings, date, time, place and purpose of meeting.

New: Each member shall be notified in writing or electronically at the last address supplied by the member to the Association of all meetings, date, time, place and purpose of meeting and other Association communications as needed.

Article IV Meetings

Section 1

Old: The Association shall conduct two (2) general meetings each year.

- A) May date shall be set at the August meeting.
- B) An August date shall be set at the May meeting.

New: The Association shall conduct two (2) general meetings each year.

- A) May date shall be set at the Labor Day meeting.
- B) A Labor Day weekend date shall be set at the May meeting.

Article VIII

Section 1

Old: Annual dues are \$55 payable by January 1 of each year.

New: Annual dues are \$55 payable by January 30 of each year.

A motion to approve these by-law changes was made by Brian Ritsema with a second by Kevin Storberg. All were in favor.

HLA Website/Newsletter/Facebook

Karen Brower stated that she is always looking for pictures and articles to post on the website or Facebook page for HLA. Anyone can connect to the Facebook page by typing in Harper Lake Association (it is the one with the loon profile picture). The website is harperlakeassociation.org. Karen will remove any reference to the Poker Run on all of the electronic HLA sites.

Clothing Sales

Sue Badalucco had a variety of new apparel at the meeting with quite a few members purchasing the new items. She also showed us the t-shirt that can be purchased for the fish stocking fund. Every \$5 from each t-shirt sale will go towards this fund. The price for sizes S-XL will be \$15 and any shirt above XL will cost \$17. You can select grey or navy as a color. She can also take orders for children's sizes too. She would like all orders placed in the next two weeks.

Directory

Kathy Abbott stated that the goal is to have the directory finished and ready for passing out to HLA members by the July 4th weekend. Lisa Mullen received many updates after the meeting and will get the corrected directory spreadsheet to Jim Abbott as soon as it is complete.

Harper Lake History

John Gochis handed out the history article to the members present. He is still looking for information from any longtime residents. As he gets new information he will get it to Karen Brower for the website. Please take time and read the article on the website. It is quite interesting. John also offered to continue as the Historian even though his term will be up in September. Thank you John.

OTHER ITEMS

There are four Board member openings as of August 2016. They are to replace Kathy Abbott, Karen Brower, John Gochis and Bill Mullaly. There will be four names on the ballot so far: Dawn May, Kevin Storberg, Bill Mullaly and Karen Brower. The ballots will be sent out August 1st. If you know of anyone who might be interested in running, please contact a present board member before July 15th.

Boater Safety was discussed. Please report any lake situations to the Sheriff Department (231)-745-2711. Let all the residents and guests know of all of the lake rules. Watch for speeding through the narrow areas; make sure you go counter clockwise on the lake and use night boat lights when necessary. Also make sure jet skis stay at least 100 feet away from shorelines, other watercraft and docks. A question was asked if a sign with the lake rules could be posted at the launch site. Jim Brown will check on this for us.

There was a motion made to donate \$50 to Elk Township for the use of the hall for the meeting. The motion was made by Dave Kott with a second from Phil McCormack. All were in favor.

There was a motion for adjournment made by Dawn May with a second by Rick Allen.
Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM