

LAKE HELEN – Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
1st 2017 Quarterly Commissioners' Meeting
Saturday February 4th
at 3027 W Lake Helen Drive

The Lake Helen P&R District Commissioners' meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Melissa Ferg, at 11:05 am.

Commissioners Present: Melissa Ferg, John Hopfensperger, Robin Novak-Nelson, Bill Pingel,
Fred Stoeger
Commissioners Absent: None
Guests Present: None

REGULAR REPORTS:

➤ **MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

Fred made a motion to accept the minutes from the last Commissioners' meeting. Robin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

➤ **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Robin Novak-Nelson provided the Treasurer's Report. The account balances are:

\$5,714.42 in Savings

\$1,703.72 in Checking

\$ 305.16 from the Boat Launch received in total for 2016

Robin announced that Kathy Grill has officially retired after sixteen years serving the District.

Bill made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Fred seconded. Motion carried unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **FISH STOCKING UPDATE:**

Mark will be asked to provide an update and details at the Annual Meeting for the final fish stocking that was done in September (including the quantity and fish types and sizes actually put into the lake.) **[Mark FOLLOW-UP]**

➤ **INVASIVE SPECIES:**

- Eurasian Water Milfoil: Fred noted that he had followed up with Amy at Golden Sands about having them help us with the EWM removal. The group discussed the need to remove the EWM that the DNR found and the importance of staying on top of the removal to protect our lake and the investment already made.
- Japanese Knotweed is another invasive species that has been found within our watershed and has never been eliminated from a few properties on the lake in spite of repeated attempts. This will be included in the work with Golden Sands.
- Fred made a motion to hire Golden Sands and allocate up to \$500 for training and EWM and JKW eradication assistance for a day in May. Seconded by John. Motion carried unanimously.
- Fred to contact Golden Sands and see if Saturday May 13th will work. **[Fred FOLLOW-UP]**
- Someone will need to notify the property owners at 3202 and 3204 E Lake Helen Drive about the plans for the JKW removal. **[FOLLOW-UP]**

➤ **CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATER – BOAT LANDING:**

Fred stated that he and Cory plan to install the video camera at the boat landing sometime this spring. Fred installed posts in October for the notification signs. **[Fred FOLLOW-UP]**

➤ **WELCOME PACKET FOR NEW OWNERS:**

Robin reviewed the draft of the letter that will be given to all new property owners along with a binder that contains pertinent information for new owners. . This will be given to anyone who bought property in 2016 and to future property owners. **[Robin FOLLOW-UP]**

➤ **BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT:**

- Fred noted that no one contacted him about the planting purchase option that he reviewed at last summer's picnic. Consequently, he is focusing on the public property as discussed at the last meeting. He spoke to the Town of Alban and Portage County Parks about options. Both supported our efforts. Fred recommended putting up a decorative seating area on the park property, next to the road, so that it is accessible for local walkers. The area would include a park bench, a free library box, and flowers.
- John made a motion to authorize spending up to \$500 on the bench, free library setup, and flower garden as recommended by Fred. Seconded by Bill. Motion carried unanimously.
- Fred to work with the Portage County Parks Department on the approvals needed and to see if they will provide a park bench free or at a discount. **[Fred FOLLOW-UP]**

➤ **LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN:**

- Bill stated that he still believes we should update the Lake Management plan. Following discussion the group agreed that Bill should contact some of the residents who were on the original committee to get them together this spring to update the key parts of the document. He should include water quality testing in the topics that are updated. **[Bill FOLLOW-UP]**

➤ **PROPERTY OWNER LISTING:**

- The group agreed that the only information that should be included on any property listing that is provided to the Lake District property owners are the property owners' names and their Lake Helen address. **[Bill FOLLOW-UP]**

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATION (Sat June 3rd)**

- Property Tax: As a follow-up to the suggestion made at the last Annual Meeting, Bill made a motion to ask Portage County to add a tax of ¼ mill to the 2016 property tax for LHP&R District properties. This tax will allow us to ensure that we have the finances needed to handle future invasive species eradication when needed. This is to be reevaluated each year. Seconded by Fred. Motion carried unanimously.
- Annual Picnic: Robin to contact the Portage County Parks Department to pick a date.
- Meeting location: Robin to contact CWEC to reserve the conference room for the annual meeting.
- Election: John Hopfensberger's term of office ends in May. He stated that he won't be running for re-election. Everyone was asked to help find others to run for his position.

➤ **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

- Wisconsin Lakes Meeting: Fred and Bill expressed an interest in attending the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention in Stevens Point in April. The convention brings together lake associations & districts, DNR, County, and UW staff to learn about lake science, regulations, and policies.

Fred made a motion that the LH&R District reimburse any Commissioners who attend the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention in Stevens Point for their registration fees. Seconded by John. Motion carried unanimously.

- Aerators: Robin noted that the aerators were turned started up on January 9th, after the conclusion of the Fisheree. They worked well all winter. Volunteers are needed to take over this responsibility and to help with the installation and removal each winter.
[FOLLOW-UP Annual Meeting]

➤ **NEXT MEETING:**

The next Commissioner's meeting will be on Saturday April 22nd, with the time and place to be determined. The primary purpose will be to finalize the plans for the Annual Meeting.

(Note: due to a conflict, the next meeting date has been rescheduled for May 13th)

ADJOURNEMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 12:35pm am by Fred. Robin seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Pingel, Secretary

Note: "[FOLLOW-UP]" - indicates an action item that needs action. These items will be on the agenda for the next meeting.