

Minutes of the Stony Lake Property Owners Association Annual Meeting August 3, 2019 9:30 a.m.

Board members present: Jon VanderPloeg, Jeff Larmore, Kathy Sullivan, Julie Stivers, Kate Johnson, Ruth Fleming, Libby Brouwer, Nancy Migas, Sharon Zoller. Absent: Ellen Jonker, Deb Mitteer, Vicky Nyenhuis

Approximately 75-80 in attendance

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Jon VanderPloeg, President. Trustees and members introduced themselves with a few words about where their home is located and how they came to the lake.

Minutes of the August 4, 2018 annual meeting, distributed previously via e-mail and website, had one correction: change Liz Early to Beth Early in New Business. Megan Bueschel moved to approve, supported by Chuck Dawson. Approved.

Treasurer Kate Johnson gave the Finance Committee report. We are still carrying a large fund balance, which will be decreased slightly this year, depending on dues payments and calendar sales. A complete budget detail report for the past several years is available to any member who wishes to see one -- just contact Kate or any Board member and it will be sent out.

Discussion of the proposed 2020 budget. Much depends on whether the Sparkler goes forward. The Board has proposed that we continue the Picnic, Boat Parade, Fishing Tournament, Ice Cream Social and Poker Paddle, all relatively low-cost events, and try not to do fundraising activities such as t-shirts, hats and calendars. This means the organization will be dependent on dues payments, which are projected to be the same as this year. Nancy Migas moved to accept the 2020 budget as proposed, Sharon Zoller seconded. Approved. Copies of the 2020 budget also are available from any Board member.

Jeff Larmore, Vice President, gave the report for the nominating committee. The Board nominated for re-election: Jeff Larmore, Kate Johnson, Ellen Jonker. For new members, the Board nominated: Dale Burmeister, Neal Miedema, Maribeth Sala-Geitzen. For the Executive Committee, the Board nominated: Jeff Larmore, President; Dale Burmeister, Vice President; Kate Johnson, Treasurer; Neal Miedema, Secretary.

Jeff asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and reiterated that anyone interested in serving on the Board of Trustees should contact a member of the Board or e-mail

stonylakepropertyowners@gmail.com. We are trying to recruit from all areas of the lake.

Megan Bueschel moved to accept the slate of candidates as nominated by the Board. T.K. Jones seconded. Approved.

Jeff then thanked retiring Board members Jon VanderPloeg, Deb Mitteer, Julie Stivers and Nancy Migas, giving a brief summary of their contributions to the Association. A very nice gift was presented to Secretary Julie Stivers in recognition of something -- (editor's note: Thank you).

Jon VanderPloeg then asked for committee reports, beginning with himself for the Community Picnic in the Park. We had about a hundred people again, even after moving it to Mary Alice Antonioli's "Electric Hangar" because of weather -- which never developed. Many thanks to Mary Alice again. Sharon Zoller added our thanks to Chet and Katie Sosnowski for generously providing their very tasty

pulled pork sandwiches as the basis of the pot luck. That always goes over well. Jon's background music was appreciated.

Jeff reported on the 4th of July activities. We had better turnout for the Fishing Tournament, with the kids division winner from last year, Mara Carbines, moving up into the adult division this year and taking home that trophy.

The Parade was a smashing success, partly due to PR efforts by Jeff and Matt Ferguson, partly because the calendar was kinder to us than last year. We had 13 boats, many with decorations that deserved an award. The winners were the Speck Family with "Detour", first place; "Survivor" by the Richardsons, second place; and "Ice Cream Truck" by the Beatties, third place.

The Ice Cream Social had the biggest attendance ever -- 211 votes were cast and people were still coming in when the polls closed. Went through five cakes and four huge tubs of ice cream. Thanks to everyone who made it happen.

T.K. Jones reported on Sailboat Racing activities -- Neal Miedema, who is taking over coordinating the event, was preparing for the day's racing. Participation is up, T.K. reminded sailors to sign the liability waivers.

Kathy Sullivan reported on the 5th Anniversary Sparkler 5K -- a wonderful success and a tribute to founder Janie Denman. 971 participants, \$21,723 raised for Crystal Valle Care Fund. She also confirmed that she and several of the Race Committee members would like to step down. They will all serve in a transition capacity next year if someone will step up to take the primary positions. Kathy described the race as a "turn-key" operation, all completely organized and really quite easy to take on, but it does require a significant time commitment. If no one volunteers to take the Race Director position, the Sparkler will not be held next year.

Kate reported on the Poker Paddle on July 27. A wonderful success for the debut year, with almost a hundred people at the finale. The number of paddlers is still pending, but it was over 50.

Winners were Steve Lawwill for first place in the adults division with a full house. Worst hand for adults was Jeff Nobke. Best hand in the kids division was Claire Miedema with a flush, worst hand in the kids was Sawyer Miedema. Youngest participant was Ila VanEffen and her friend Alison (sorry, no last name); oldest was Kurt Chambers. Winner of the Stony Lake Trivia contest was Chuck Dawson. Many thanks to the dock volunteers who handed out cards at ten docks. The event will be planned for next year.

Libby Brouwer said that as of the day, there were no hats left and just 29 calendars left. Great Christmas gifts -- get yours today!

Ruth Fleming reported that memberships were on track to meet this year's goal. We have been getting between 130 and 140 memberships the past few years, up from 70-80 a decade ago. There are approximately 200 households on the lake.

Julie Stivers reported that if there is a Sparkler, she will help with the Newsletter, but otherwise, with her retirement from the Board, the annual communication will go back to a letter from the President. She will continue to help with the Facebook page and e-mails along with the new secretary of the Board. Maribeth Sala-Geitzen has volunteered to take on maintaining the mailing list and the web page.

John Stivers reported on the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. Overall, the last few years show that Stony Lake water quality seems to be remaining steady and even improving. That is good news given that most lakes the age of ours are going downhill, or becoming more “eutrophic,” the water quality term for aging. Remaining stable is an accomplishment, and may be related to taking biomass out of the lake each summer during harvesting. John had a “visual aid” stick to talk about the high water and the dam. He and the other Water Quality Committee members are keeping an eye on it, expecting to see further problems when the water level goes down. Matt Loper from Camp Miniwanca said they are also expecting problems, and have already secured a permit for repair when the levels recede. They are taking responsibility for the spillway as it is on their property. John gave him the water level visual aid to share with his staff and campers.

Dave Zoller reported on the Lake Management Board. The harvesters have been having a very bad season. The high water throughout Michigan has impeded their operations, and they have also had staffing and equipment problems. They have told Dave that the earliest we could expect to see them would be August 19 (Dave said that in his opinion that meant later than that date). There was discussion about whether it is worth doing the harvesting at all if it will be that late, and whether we should cancel it this year. The amount of plants removed each summer has been steadily decreasing, and there was discussion about the impact of not harvesting on water quality. Very difficult to predict that. It is the decision of the Lake Board about what to do, but Dave asked for opinions from the membership at the meeting. He proposed to cancel the harvesting this season, and extend the 5-year plan for another year at the end, as the funding would be there. Steve Vincent seconded the proposal and there was unanimous agreement.

There was discussion about the chemical treatment. Nina and Pete Deptula were concerned about the lack of notification and signage when the applications were being made. They requested that e-mails be sent out when applications are being made. There are two chemical treatments, one by the Lake Board to solely treat Eurasian Watermilfoil, and another by private parties who contract with an applicator to treat all the plants on their waterfront. Dave will send out notification of the Lake Board treatment, but we have no control over the private parties. They are, however, required by the DNR to do notification signage on neighboring properties.

There was no Old Business to be addressed.

Under New Business, Ron Migas reminded everyone again about the damage wake boats are doing to shorelines and docks in this high water, and requested that everyone remind their neighbors and guests to keep to the middle of the lake when kicking up a large wake.

Mary Chandler brought up the problems with late-night fishers shining lights into cottages. Apparently the former culprit in this has stopped, but there is a new, even shinier boat. If anyone knows who is doing this, please ask them to keep the lights on the lake, not on the cottages. The park access ramp closes at 10:00 p.m., so if they are coming and going after hours, neighbors might want to notify the Oceana County Sheriff’s office.

Someone (sorry) asked if there are any plans for repaving Scenic Drive. Sharon Zoller, who also is assistant clerk at Benona Township, said that it is the plan from the financing voted in by taxpayers, but it is becoming very difficult to get contractors. It’s in the Benona plan.

Chuck Dawson moved to adjourn at 11:15 a.m. with unanimous seconding.