

Crockery Lake Association Minutes
September 16, 2020
2442 Crockery Shores Road

1. Meeting called to order 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

President Bob Blauwkamp, Vice President Pat Wolters, Secretary Susan McClure, Treasurer Greg Slater, Directors Carl Elliott, Mollie Gaggin, Paula Humphrey, Betsy Ludwick

3. Approval of Agenda

Carl Elliott moved to approve the Agenda; Greg Slater seconded. Approved.

4. Call to Audience

There was no audience.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report was accepted as presented. Pat Wolters moved, Greg Slater seconded. Passed.

6. Treasurer's Report

Greg Slater reported a balance of General Fund Bank Balance of \$3054.35. He noted that we will be paying the liability insurance bill of approximately \$800.

The Fireworks Display fund is short \$1523.10. CLA needs \$6000 if it is to have any fireworks show at all. The postcard appeal brought in \$300 and the bottle return collection has brought in \$78.90. The bottle return collection will continue at the garage across the street from 2779 Van Dyke Road.

The Board thanks Betsy Ludwick and Paula Humphrey for designing and mailing the postcards. Betsy has been working on updating the mailing lists (dealing with glitches due to incompatible programs).

Carl Elliott moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Pat Wolters seconded. Approved.

7. Fireworks 2021: Update & Funding & Insurance Endorsement

Bob Blauwkamp signed the insurance papers required by Liability Insurance Company, Auto Owners. Bob restated that if we don't raise a minimum of \$6000, Wolverine will not put on the Crockery Lake Fireworks. One suggestion was to look for sponsors. It was proposed that a family or business that contributes \$500 or more could have recognition on the "Welcome to Crockery Lake" signs. Nothing was decided about how sponsors could be recognized.

Pat Wolters said she could approach several people for donations.

8. Weed Treatment Review & Update

The Board looked at copies of Professional Lake Management invoices sent to Chester Township. There were four treatments (May 28, June 23, June 30, July 10). The June 30 treatment used Phycomycin (PhosLock) which binds with phosphorus and removes it as a nutrient. The water clarity this summer has been the best since data started being collected by the CLA. Clarity ranged from 18 inches in May to nearly seven feet in August.

The Board recognizes the work and thanks Linda Lane for taking the daily readings with the Secchi Disk, recording the data, and charting it. She distributed the graph to Board Members who asked that the information be put in the newsletter. The Board thanked Linda as well as Mollie Gaggin and Betsy Ludwick who took daily surface temperature readings that are also shown on the graph.

Carl Elliott questioned why Crockery Lake had two muck pellet treatments totaling over \$2000. He thought there would be muck treatments only if there was a budget surplus. No one at the meeting had a copy of the latest weed treatment contract. Pat Wolters agreed to secure a copy of the latest contract. No further action was taken.

Carl passed around a Grand Rapids Press article about European Frogbit, an invasive aquatic plant that can travel on boats. Starry stonewort is also an invasive aquatic plant that will travel on boats that are not washed off. CLA has posted material at the 25th Avenue road end advising people to put in clean boats only. To install a boat washing machine at the launch would be more than the CLA can afford.

9. Creation of Sub-Committees

Paula Humphrey recommended we reorganize the Bylaws and Policies to group like topics together. Sections currently read as if they were written and attached in the order that the subject came to a Board's attention.

A committee of Mollie Gaggin, Paula Humphrey, and Betsy Ludwick will organize the Bylaws/Policies to be more coherent and give a report at the October meeting. They will also provide for the formation of standing committees. Two possible committees mentioned were Fireworks and Lake Management.

10. Water Quality Testing: This Year/Next Year/Add Inlet Testing

Bob Blauwkamp suggested water testing in the inlets. The CLA has \$262 for water testing and we could use money from our reserve. Consensus was that the Board does not want PLM to do water testing as it could be a conflict of interest. Michigan Lakes and Streams determines if water is healthy by looking at the organisms that live in the water. A company in Coopersville tests well water; Paula Humphrey will check if the lab tests surface water. Paula noted that the time of testing and conditions are important too. Paula will look for cost of testing so the Board will have the information for budgeting.

There was no motion about testing all the inlets or how far up stream the testing should go. Nor was there a decision of what to test for. Pat Wolters said that Michigan Lakes and Streams recommends testing at road intersections.

Susan McClure reported talking to Beth Clawson of the Michigan State Extension office about water testing. Ms. Clawson said that Ottawa County in the Canada Goose flyway. Thus, she suspects Canada geese rather than agricultural runoff are the major source of phosphorus in Crockery Lake.

Another source of phosphorus is failing septic systems. Ms. Clawson said that sniffer dogs are trained to identify the presence of human source contamination, not animal source contamination. Lake residents would collect water samples according to the Environmental Canine Services LLC guidelines, send the samples for testing, and receive a report of results. The cost is \$35 per sample plus shipping. See k.reynolds@eck9s.com for more information.

11. Sonar Weed Treatment

Carl Elliott talked to Aaron Parker of EGLE who told Carl that there are no funds for studies in Michigan about sonar weed treatment. We should look for reports of studies done elsewhere.

Susan McClure gave Carl Elliott a hard copy of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Research Report No. 195, on sonar weed control. The effects of sonar on fauna could be catastrophic.

Carl moved, Betsy Ludwick seconded that we wait until next Spring to look into sonar weed control. No vote was taken.

12. Temporary Watercraft Speed Ordinance

The Board agreed that high wake in time of high water is bad for lake property. Given that recently Michigan State law gave municipalities the right to have an ordinance prohibiting high wakes, we decided to see how other lakes establish such ordinances and possibly model one for Crockery Lake on one of those. The Board also voiced concerns about wake board or ballast boats that need to be used on bigger lakes where the wake they create is dissipated by distance. On Crockery Lake wake waves are washing over sea walls. Michigan State Law: all motorized boats must stay 200 feet from shore, but 200 feet is not enough distance to lessen the wake when a boat uses a long shaft and/or uses ballast.

The Board discussed problems with enforcement. Chester Township budgets so much for the Sheriff's services. Enforcement would include signs and buoys. Someone would have to get the boat registration number. However shoreline erosion and house damage happen during high water. Wakes need to be controlled.

Local residents need to be educated too about high water and wake damage.

The Sheriff can be called at 800-249-0911. The Marine Division can be reached at 800-738-4000.

13. Review and Update Board Policies and Bylaws

See no. 9.

14. General Lake Cleanup

Paula Humphrey described the need for removing metal waste and rocks from beneath the lake's surface near the shoreline. There was talk of property lines. However milk jugs could be attached to warn boaters of hazards.

15. Improve CLA

One idea is to have group projects involving lake residents.

16. Feedback

Betsy Ludwick asked that Board Members read and respond to the Newsletter. Several members apologized for not doing so. As anyone who has ever edited a newsletter, before or after the advent of computers, knows, putting together a newsletter is time consuming. And, fan mail is always appreciated. Thank you, Betsy, for continuing to do the Crockery Lake Association Newsletter.

Meeting adjourned 8:37 p.m.

Next Meeting

7 p. m.
October 21, 2020
2442 Crockery Shores Road