

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

at The Grove
March 24, 2021 at 9:30 am

1. Call to Order: President Bonnie Huettl called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. In attendance were Bonnie Huettl, Linda Dolan, Brian Van Nevel, Diane Soderstrom, John Stone, Chuck and Lori Obler, Don Auel, Scott Soderstrom, Amanda Topel, Harvey Strom, Hardy Huettl, Eldon Holmes, Merrill Pederson and Jim Barrett.
2. Secretary's Report: Brian Van Nevel made a motion to approve the minutes from the fall 2020 meeting and Chuck Obler seconded the motion and the minutes were approved. See attached minutes.
3. Treasurer's Report: Brian Van Nevel made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Chuck Obler seconded the motion. Motion passed and the report was approved. See attached report. Diane stated that membership needs reconciling. We will send out 2 reports in the future for comparison-one for the current year and one from previous year.
4. Introduce new directors: Bonnie introduced Chuck and Lori Obler as the new directors of Krafthefers and Beauty Point. We all went around and introduced ourselves to them.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. AIS: (Hardy Huettl). Hardy did a quick recap from the fall meeting stating that we have Curly-leaf Pondweed in 10 areas and 27 locations within those areas around the lake. CLP is bad near the Mill Lake area. Zebra Mussels are all over with no way to control them. We do not have Stoney Starwort. Blue Water Science did not find any in the 2020 survey. Their report came out in February. Contact Bonnie for a copy of the report. It was an overall good report with above average water clarity and an increase in plant abundance. There was a question about life expectancy of Zebra Mussels. Numbers of them will drop when food sources disappear. Hardy also reported that we gained lake acreage at 1334 acres. We are still short one AIS inspector and will bring this up at the annual meeting. A summary of the Blue Water Science report will be in the spring newsletter. A survey was done in 2012 and some of the results were similar to the current survey. Chuck Obler commented that he has discovered walleyes eating Zebra Mussels as he found them in the stomachs of walleyes he has caught. He has not seen this documented in any literature to date. Harvey commented that a dock needs to be cleaned off before moving it. Chuck said if it is out of water for 21 days it can go back in the water without cleaning.
2. Water Monitoring: (Hardy Huettl & Rod Johnson) Hardy stated that Rod compiles the readings and submits them for analysis. He will cover this information at the annual meeting. Secchi disc water clarity reading average is 14.39 feet. Chloride testing has been started near Hwy 114. We do not have much of a salt issue but will continue testing.
3. Newsletter: (Eldon Holmes) Eldon stated he has been doing the newsletter for 5-6 years and would like to relinquish doing it to someone else. He will help with the transition. This will be brought up at the annual meeting to try to fill the position. We held a hand vote and agreed to

send out the newsletter after the annual meeting. Articles will be due May 14th. Amanda had a question on how the newsletter is done. Eldon gave a short explanation.

4. Membership: (Mona Strege) Bonnie reported for Mona. Membership lists were passed out for each director. There are 212 members which is down from previous years. Mona will send out membership invoices. See attached Year End Summary. Mona is learning the job and working through all the information.
5. Fish Habitat/Walleye Stocking: (Kevin Weisel & Harvey Strom) Harvey reported that we received \$500 (Viking Sportsman donation) and asked if there is somewhere to get more funding. This will be brought up at the annual meeting. DNR is taking care of it this year. We have approximately \$900 left in the walleye fund.
6. Lobster Wear: (Amanda Topel) Price increase has been updated on the website. She will reorder flags. Sales are good. The treasurer's report does not reflect the sales to date.
7. Water Levels: (Harvey Strom) Beavers are building dams again. Matt Anderson is the trapper. He has trapped 3 beaver this spring and 5 last fall. He removed the traps on March 25. Water is flowing. We are not allowed to keep the water dammed up in Lobster Lake. We are part of a 70 square mile water shed. In 11/2020, the water level reading was 4.66 ft. The Carlos Dam is lower than Lobster Lake. Harvey visited the dam and it trickles. The board members have been getting calls about the low water levels. An angry resident called Bonnie and Brian. An estimation on water levels cannot be made until ice out and the new measure stick installed. The lake is still higher than water levels in the 80's. He is watching for the official ice out date which is when ice is 95% gone. Average date is April 10-12. Jim suggested that education regarding our lakes water levels be included in the newsletter. Chuck had a question on using beaver bafflers which is a culvert placed under a beaver dam to allow water flow. DOT says no structures allowed.
8. DCLA: (Rod Johnson) No Report.
9. Email/Loon nests: (Jim Barrett) Jim reported it is time to get your loon's nest ready to put out. He has not heard much from the National Loon Center. Send Jim your email address if you want to be added to receive this information.

OLD BUSINESS

1. CLP funding: Hardy reported we can get a free AIS treatment permit from the DNR. We have a contract with DC Environmental Consultants of St. Cloud to conduct a CLP survey costing \$1386. We have a preliminary grant approval from the DNR for \$1500. CLP survey results needed to finalize the grant. Grant application has also been submitted to Douglas County for \$8093. They too need survey results before finalizing approval. They pay up to 75% per acre for treatment. We will find out what we are eligible for in April. We are waiting for the survey for final information. We will need 3 years of treatment for this to be effective. There was a question on who needs to make decisions regarding these expenses as it will be too late to be discussed at the annual meeting. By-laws do not say the general membership has to vote on it so the board will be able to vote on it. Chuck Obler who has experience with the DNR stated that treatment is best done in April when water is cooler. A liquid herbicide is used and it will also kill native vegetation. CLP starts growing under the ice and is worse when there is less snow cover. A question came up as to whether the survey is still good if we delay a year. Answer to date is YES for county but NO for DNR.

2. Slow/No Wake Zone Status: Bonnie clarified that Boxcar Bay is Wildridge. Merrill told his story of the boxcar which was a little bit of history of Lobster Lake. This area needs to be all No Wake or not at all. We are on the Commissioner agenda for April 6th. A No Wake on the Narrows was discussed but there is lots of opposition.
3. Boat Parade: We will have a boat parade again this year. Hardy and Bonnie will be the lead boat and use a bull horn to help with communication. A map of the route will go in the newsletter. The parade will start at the public access and go to Happy's Landing.
4. New Computer for Treasurer: Diane reported a computer would cost about \$500. The issue is finding software that is not a subscription with a monthly charge. She will do more research on that and bring it to the fall board meeting. She would like to find something easily transferred to the next treasurer to simplify any transition.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Meeting: Linda reported on the Garfield Community Center and the new covid rules regarding food and cleaning/sanitizing. We can hold the meeting there with a limit of 50 people and would be required to follow the cleaning rituals. A question came up if we could use a restaurant instead since they have different covid rules. Brian Van Nevel said he has a contact at Firestation Bar and Grill and will ask if we can hold the meeting there.
2. Elections: Bonnie announced that she is retiring from the presidency and Brian Van Nevel will take over as new president. We need a vice-president so will take nominations from the floor at the annual meeting. Diane and Linda will stay on as treasurer and secretary. Merrill Pederson will moderate the elections at the meeting.
3. Annual Meeting Speaker: Carolyn Dindorf (Linda's Sister) is a Limnologist and has agreed to speak on the topic of Lakescaping/Shoreline Landscaping.
4. Items from the floor: Bonnie brought up a question as to if we should become a 5013C. It increases work for the treasurer who would have to file a tax report each year. There are legal protections for the board. Dues becomes tax deductible. With a show of hands, it was voted to table the topic to research it further and bring up for future discussion. John talked about how loon nests were built and sold for \$1 originally to avoid liability. Lori Obler wanted information on duties of a director. Bonnie informed her that they have a yearly party and pass out directories. Bonnie will send her additional information. Chuck asked about the minutes which was answered by Bonnie. Linda announced the filing with the MN Secretary of State for 2021 was completed on March 24, 2021. It is free to update it every year.

Amanda Topel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Dolan

LLA Secretary