

HUTCHINS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Regular Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting

Held: September 22, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at Fennville Public Schools

Call to Order – Loren Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

Taking of Roll – Secretary Randy Vogelzang called the roll of HLIA (“Association”) Board members

John Lindahl	1	Anne Irwin	VP
Jill O’Connor	2	Loren Barnes	Pres
Vacant	3	Randy Vogelzang	Sect
Maureen Sytsma	3B	Scott Clark	7
John Lerg	4	John Burmeister	8
Jim Baird	5	Denise Grimaldi	9A - Treas
Todd Moore	6A	Janice’ Rowland	9B
Martha Kautz	6B	Gary Holton	10

Board Members Present: John Burmeister, Jim Baird (arrived at 7:00 p.m.), Loren Barnes, Gary Holton, Scott Clark, Anne Irwin, Janice Rowland, John Lindahl, Maureen Sytsma, Denise Grimaldi, and Randy Vogelzang.

Board Members Absent: Jill O’Connor, John Lerg, Todd Moore, Martha Kautz

Additions to Agenda:

Loren Barnes distributed the agenda for the meeting. There were no objections or additions to the agenda.

Approval of Agenda: Randy Vogelzang moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Approved (10-0)

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Minutes from last Meeting
3. Treasurer’s Report -
4. Summary of Bills

Correspondence – Randy Vogelzang reported that the Association received the Water Front Alliance newsletter.

Committee Reports

CLMP - John Lindahl reported that he took second disc readings every two weeks. It showed clear to a 9.5 foot depth. He further reported that the clarity dropped off near the end of the season, but he has finished for the season. He also stated that phosphorus sampling was completed in spring and late summer. He also reported that he drive to the DNR office in Kalamazoo. He questioned whether he was duplicating Kieser's work. Loren stated that he would check with Kieser. We would be happy with Kieser checking the phosphorus once per year. See Lerg Kieser report later to extended discussion.

Chamber of Commerce –Vacancy in this committee assignment. Loren will attend Chamber meetings.

Vacancy in Board District 3 - Loren will take board District 3 position.

Membership – Denise Grimaldi / Anne Irwin reported the Association has 138 members this year.

Public Relations – Loren stated that Jim Baird has some good ideas for this committee. Loren will call Jim to see if he will be attending tonight. (Jim came later to the meeting.) He has a budget of \$1,000 that has mostly not been used – mostly for the signs which is in planning stage.

Jim's report: a goal of his committee is to increase membership (currently we have only 55% of potential members). He plans to use 4 metal signs and he will need language, something like "the Association is keeping the lake clean". He also will have a website reference on the signs and a holder below the sign with a map of lake and depth noted. He will check if it makes sense to use different colors. He also has ideas about the boat parade and maybe a towel for those who participate. He believes the money collected would cover all of it. He also reported that the poker run is in good shape, expecting about 50 participants for next year, and there is \$1,000 in budget which should cover the event even if it expands. He will work with Randy Vogelzang on the signs, and we will probably need road commission approval to put up the signs.

Directory – No report. Bob Renzema will be at next meeting to discuss the directory. The directory has been well received.

Discovery Camp – John Lindahl loves participating in the camp with the kids. This time there were about 6 kids. It was done well. There was underwater viewer equipment for kids, which was fun for them. There was a mix up on timing with the Sheriff, but he came later when there was lunch, which also allowed parents to hear him and it turned out well in the end. Marureen Sytsma suggested that we should have a regular date for the camp each year, which would help plan and get more kids. Director of the camp Eleanor Clough is concerned there is not much

interest and may not do it anymore. John Lindall will contact her and suggest an advanced date and ask her if she will continue to volunteer as the camp leader.

Newsletter – Ann Irwin needs help with the newsletter. She does not have the time commitment to do it all. She would like others to submit paragraphs on information folks would like to hear about. She asks that folks just shoot information to her and she will collect it for publication. Membership renewal should also be addressed in the newsletter. Board members will also provide Anne information to publish. John Lerg will do a nature article. The revised bylaws can be referenced to web site. There was also discussion about advertising needs. Anne wants material by the 19th of October.

Lake Board – John Burmeister – See unfinished business below.

Area Directors Report/ Remarks

Unfinished Business

Hutchins Lake Board - John Burmeister reported that the Lake Board meeting was moved to August from July, and other HLIA members attended. Ganges Township supervisor will not attend the Lake Board any more. So, the board will need a new rep from Ganges. The board approved all three Kieser proposals, Purple Loosestrife remediation was also planned for 2015. Lake assessments to HLIA members have been waived for 2016. There is about \$48K in bank from assessments. There will be a hearing in 2016 to determine what, if any, assessments will be assessed to the Association members and the contract for lake treatment will be reviewed in 2016, to determine whether we will use progressive A and E as the contractor. John believed everything HLIA had wanted the Lake Board to do was approved, however there was discussion by the Association Board that the HLIA's best interest would be to continue the assessments to pay for treatment of the lake and it is important that HLIA members understand the importance to the lake that it continue to be treated.. Randy Vogelzang, and John Lindahl and John Birmiester and Loren Barnes will look into it. There was also discussion that bills for lake treatment go to Denise at the drain commission for reimbursement. Finally there was discussion about brush and weeds in the channel, Tony would review it in past years but has not been out there. John will check with Tony to have him check this year.

Keiser Project Update – John Lerg - Loren Barnes provided the report for John who was absent. Loren reported that we had a fall sampling for first time. The report will be sent to board members. There were a series of tests with results showing there are lower phosphorus generally than last year, ammonia nitrogen was higher in August. Spring and summer samplings will give us better information. There is sampling done by Kieser and by the Lake Board, which raises the question whether we need to do sampling twice a year ourselves if the Lake Board is also doing the work. Loren recommends just a Spring sampling by HLIA.

New Business

Tax Exempt Filing – Loren Barnes reported the IRS has revoked the HLIA tax exempt status because the HLIA did not file annual 990 reports to the IRS. This needs to be corrected in order for the HLIA to receive tax deductible donations. Loren recommended that a CPA be hired and have them make all the corrective filings to renew our tax exemption certification. The Board needs to look at costs and to get authority up to \$1,000 to get tax exemption renewed. Then we can assign yearly filings for someone to do it.

John Lindahl moved for that cost analysis and authority for \$1,000 as discussed above be authorized. Seconded.

Approved. (11-0)

Contract Bids for HLIA buoys – Loren Barnes announced a bid by John Lindahl for buoy placement and removal on the lake and that the HLIA would put a bid notice in the paper seeking bids for buoy services. John Burmiester moved for the public bid notice. Seconded.

Approved (12- 0) (Note: one abstention by John Lindahl.)

There was also discussion that there was no buoy at the channel. Gary Holton would like to have one put in. Consensus was to request a neighbor to put the sign in for no wake in the yard along channel.

Removal of Association Signage – Randy Vogelzang noticed that the sign at the boat landing was removed and several Board members were also aware of it and stated that it will be fixed

Chamber of Commerce vacancy: Loren .will assume the vacancy

Schedule of meetings for 2016 – Randy Vogelzang suggested that the Board set the dates for the 2016 meetings. The Board agreed to the following dates for the 2016 Board meetings : Jan 21, April 28, June 25 annual meeting, September 22, December 1.

Nomination Committee: *(Scott Clark, Martha Kautz, Jim Baird)*

This topic was deferred to be discussed at the next meeting

- President
- Secretary

Election Committee: *(John Lindahl, Gary Holton, Anne Irwin, Jill O'Connor)*

This topic was deferred to be discussed at the next meeting

Public Comment:

Bert Witvoert – Discussed Tony’s role with taxes and urged that we do not forget about it.

Scott Bouwman. Indicated that he recently bought a cottage . He thanked the Board for the good work they do. It is appreciated.

Comments from the Board -

Jill O’Conner stated that Todd Wagner, Allegan sheriff Office, sent out a letter stating there will be less coverage on lake next year, Should we send a letter to encourage coverage to the sheriff? We would like to see enforcement continue.

Scott: Scott Clark stated that as board members, we should reach out personally to request membership from all members.

John Lindahl stated that he was disappointed that the HLIA members approved not allowing renters to be members. He would like to remedy it.

Anne Irwin asked for comments from newsletter. Suggestions: How get on email listing? Website? How to keep website current? New board member will do it.

Next Meeting - December 1, 2015

Adjournment

-Randy Vogelzang moved to adjourn. Seconded.

Adjournment approved. (11-0)

Adjourned: 8:39: p.m.

Submitted by Randy Vogelzang
Secretary, Hutchins Lake Improvement Association