

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association Board Meeting  
12-11-16  
455 Austin Blvd, Decatur

Present: Dan Buentz, Dominic Panico, Tim Wilson, Joe Leary, Sharon Neubauer, Marcia Ellis  
Present via Facetime: Bob Richter  
Absent: John Boersma, Jim Newbauer

Meeting was called to order at 10:30am.

July minutes were previously approved via email.

**Financial report** was reviewed. Bob asked about the Catacomb charge. Marcia explained this was the company that hosts our web domain. Plans are to change this to Weebly next year so we will have one bill for both web page hosting and our web domain. There were questions regarding the LOW Weed Control Fund balance and the PLM suggested budget for 2017. Bob will ask John for clarification and report back to the board. There was discussion around the PLM proposal to use Sonar next spring. It was noted the weeds were especially bad this past summer. A motion was made to accept the financial report, was seconded and passed.

Dan and Marcia attended the **Michigan Lakes and Streams meeting** at the Decatur Library in September. Approximately 24 lake associations were represented there and there was a report on aeration of Indian Lake, Cass County. They thought it was a very worthwhile meeting and encouraged board members to attend the next one in the spring.

A motion was made to **increase the dues** to \$30 per year and to include a subscription to the Michigan Lakes and Streams magazine which is published quarterly. The motion was seconded. Discussion followed. The motion passed unanimously.

**Dues invoices** will be sent out in January with a newsletter. Bob will write the newsletter and he will ask John to prepare the invoice mailing. It was suggested that there be bullet points of the membership benefits that dues help to pay for including fireworks, picnic, advocacy with government agencies, stocking the lake, etc. Also there should be an explanation of the dues history (was \$40, then reduced to \$10 for the last 78 years. . .).

We discussed a **welcome packet** for all new residents introducing them to the Lake Association. Marci will send an introductory letter to all new members (electronically if possible) with information about the website and the Facebook page. There was discussion about a small token such as a floating key chain with the LOWIA logo, or something similar with a welcome packet.. This suggestion was tabled for future discussion. Sharon and Jim will work on ideas for a packet. We also discussed the logistics of how to get the information when a residence changes ownership. Dan noted the Van Buren County website has some information we can use. It was

suggested that each of us cover a section of the lake neighborhoods and notify Marcia when there is a new resident.

There was a question about using **PayPal** for website membership payments. The website accepts credit cards, but is not set up for PayPal.

Bob and John have their **signatures** on file with the bank for our account.

There was discussion about **stocking the lake** with fish. An organization, PNA, recently stocked LOW with walleye, as a thank you for using the lake for their fishing tournaments. Bob sent them a thank you letter. There was discussion about the LOWIA sponsoring a fishing club. Tim had been planning on looking into this. There was a motion for Tim to go forward with creating this club as part of our association. Motion was seconded and passed.

It had previously been suggested that we charge a fee for **fishing tournaments** on LOW. Due to the difficulty of the logistics in monitoring and regulating this activity, it was decided we will not pursue this course of action at this time.

An update on the **starry stonewort** invasion of our lake has been posted on the LOWIA website.

At our picnic Roger Mattens had suggested that the Board **repair or replace** the Association **road signs** around the lake. Bob will look in to replacing them. Dominic and Dan will drive around the lake to identify the sign locations.

The **budget** for 2017 will be presented at our spring meeting.

The date for our next **picnic** is July 15.

Dominic and Dan explained the process they have been going through with Hamilton Township on trying to get a **keyhole ordinance** in place. They will be meeting with the Hamilton Township Planning Commission Monday and they will attend the Hamilton Township Board meeting on Tuesday. They have collected information on every beach, access point and road end, etc. and have gained a thorough understanding of the different ordinances that address this issue on our lake.

Mary Patterson of the **Bella Point Property Association** gave a report to the board via phone on some issues they are dealing with

Sharon asked for an update on the **paving of the public boat launch**. Dominic advised that the DNR is responsible for this and he has suggested they use gravel, rather than pavement, to avoid run-off issues.

There was a motion to adjourn at 12:30pm.