



# School Section Lake Property Owners Association

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SCHOOL SECTION LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING  
MORTON TOWNSHIP HALL  
JUNE 17, 2017

## MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – PRESIDENT

- Time: 9:10 AM
- Attendance: 33

### **Board Officers**

Doug Murdoch, President -18  
 Marty Foster, Vice President - 18  
 Janine Mills, Treasurer -18  
 Marlene Schalm, Secretary -18

Gabe Sheppard - 17  
 Kris Karcher - 18  
 Dorothy Metcalf - 18

### **Area Reps**

Kurt Cotter -18  
 Diane Diehm -17  
 Jerry King-17  
 Darlene Bunker -18  
 Margo Miller -18  
 Marvin Bell -17  
 Don Swanson - 17  
 Keith Cotter-17  
 Dan Karcher – 17  
 Jim Pratt - 18  
 Judy Rowland - 18  
 Steve Hill - 17  
 Larry Bunker – 17  
 John Rowland - 17

### **Committee Chairs**

Finance Committee: Janine Mills & Maxine Murdoch  
 Fish Planting: Jerry King  
 Newsletter : Dorothy Metcalf & Maxine Murdoch  
 Park Liaison: Doug Murdoch  
 Lake Water Level: John Rowland  
 Meet Your Neighbor: Denise Ronning  
 Water Quality Management: Don Swanson  
 Gate Code – Don Swanson  
 Private Road: Larry Bunker  
 Web Site Master: Kris Karcher  
 Mecosta County Parks Supervisor; Jeffrey Abel

## MINUTES OF 2017 ANNUAL MEETING AS READ – SECRETARY: Marlene Schalm

- Motion to approve: Maxine Murdoch
- Second by: Dan Karcher
- Discussion/Corrections
- Approval/Disapproval: Approved

TREASURER'S 2016-2017 REPORT AS READ – TREASURER: Janine Mills/Maxine Murdoch

- Motion to approve: Jerry Ambrose
- Second: Tom Bullard
- Discussion/Corrections:
  - Approved/ Disapproved: Approved
  -

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2017--2018.

- Motion to Approve: Dorothy Metcalf
- Second: Jerry Ambrose
- Discussion/Corrections: *(1) Enough funding for fish planting in fall of 2017 but will need to keep an eye on donations for future years. We might need a promotion to keep this fund solvent. (2)Due Reminder: Post Cards will be sent out immediately and again after the "Meet Your Neighbor" function. Janine will compare those who have paid so duplicates will not be sent out. Doug Murdoch will procure the postcards and stamps*
- Approved/Disapproved: Approved

President Report: Doug Murdoch:

- *Summary of past year: This has been a good year on the lake. No accidents or incidents of any kind. People seem to be enjoying the recreation that the lake provides. Don Swanson has taken over the signs at the entrances of West, East School Section Lake and Wood St,*

Report from Committee Chairpersons:

**Finance Committee**– Janine Mills & Maxine Murdoch:

*Maxine Murdoch reviewed the overall budget for 2016-2017 and found all was in order. She also reviewed the proposed budget for 2017-2018 and noted an increase in the "Meet Your Neighbor" The budget needs to be increased another \$500.00 to cover costs as the proposed increase that was voted on is not adequate for the cost of a larger tent and food. This has become an important function to the property owners and to continue the growth in attendance we need to increase the budget to \$12350.00*

Motion: Maxine Murdoch

Second: Jerry Ambrose

Discussion: Attendees want more coverage as the last 2 years it has rained and a larger tent is needed. Also a tent is needed to cover a band that has been donated by Alan Metcalf.

Approved/Disapproved: Approved



## SSLPOA Annual Meeting

June 19, 2017

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### **Fish Planting Project– Jerry King:**

Fish planting was late last year but we were able to add larger fish to the lake population. Because of the warm winter and lack of ice fishing, many fishermen have been catching bigger and larger quantities this spring. Bluegill and Bass have grown and seem to be plentiful. When fish are planted year after year, the outcome changes over time and survival is dependent on which fish are feeding on other fish. We need volunteers to catch and collect scales from the Pike to determine whether they are stunted in growth. If this has happened, the DNR will make a decision as to now to decrease this population.

### **Newsletter Editors – Dorothy Metcalf/Maxine Murdoch:**

Dorothy asked that people supply articles and pictures on a regular basis for the newsletter so that they don't have to scramble in the spring and fall when putting the newsletter together.

### **Park Liaison– Doug Murdoch**

Linda Howard was present and shared information on the parks. On holidays they are 100% full and during other times are running around 80%full. Our County Park is looking into providing drain field for sewage removal for their camp sites. This is an upgrade that is badly needed. They are also upgrading their electrical and wanting to provide Wi-Fi for their campers. The millage was voted down by a very narrow margin and at the moment, there are no new plans to put on a ballot in the near future. The roof project of the Pavilion has been completed and the balance of the monies raised for this project has been set aside for providing Wi-Fi in the Pavilion. Question was raised as to what information was being handed out to boat owners who come through the park and is consistent with the information that we share with our property owners. Doug Murdoch will discuss this with the park manager. Also a review of the laws governing the right away of paddle boats and kayaks needs to be provided. Marlene will contact the park and see what information is being handed out at the time that their kayaks and paddleboats are rented out.

### **Road's Committee: Larry Bunker**

Buchanan to be closed again September 4, 2017; the intersection of Buchanan and 100<sup>th</sup> Ave. will be Reconstructed later this fall sometime after Labor Day. MDOT will be connecting the intersection to the spot they left off last year on the bridge project. They will also be paving the shoulders on Buchanan for a bike lane from the Bridge to W. School Section Lake Dr. The township plans to pave approximately a mile of W. School Section Alake Drive north of Buchanan, to the private road. These three projects will be going on around the same time after Labor Day. The detour route will most likely be the same as last year.

### **Water Quality Management/Gate Code– Don Swanson**

All Secci testing has been completed in a timely manner. Clarity is at about 15 feet unless churned up by motorized boating. After an active weekend, visibility is reduced to about 10-12 feet but by Wednesday, it returns to 15-18 ft.

### **Web Site Master– Kris Karcher**

Any information provided about the lake will be put on the web page. She would love to have more pictures and stories.

### **Meet your Neighbor– Denise Ronning:**

The budget has been increased to accommodate a larger tent for seating and another tent for Alan Metcalf's band. This is from 11AM - 1PM on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Doug will check with owners of Blue Lake Tavern for possible donation of a tent.

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**Weed Control- Doug Murdoch**

The company was out to look at the condition of the lake. Marty Foster observed them and sent a letter requesting that spraying be done prior to the week of July 1<sup>st</sup>. In talking with the park, they also do not want the spraying to occur during the 4<sup>th</sup>. Of July week which starts for them on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Weed control renewal for three additional years, 2018 through 2020** (will need to be renewed again at annual meeting 2020 for 3 years)

Motion to Approve: Jerry Ambrose

Second: Jerry King

Discussion: None

Approved/Disapproved: Approved

**Upcoming Event Dates:**

- Board Meeting: Called as necessary by president
- June 30, 2017 @ 7:30 PM-Boat Parade will be led by Pirates of the Cotter Family
- Meet Your Neighbor Saturday August 11, 2018, 11:00 AM-1:00PM
- Fish Planting at Boat Ramp: Fall date to be determined (October)

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ROAD SUBDIVISION SIGNS: Don Swanson**

The week of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Doug, Marty, Don, and few other volunteers will paint and hang all of the owner's signs. They have all been made and are ready to hang. Wood St. will have the shrubs trimmed and the posts painted before hanging of the signs as it is over grown.

**New Property Owner packets mailings: Marlene Schalm**

Because of the cost of printing and mailing, it was decided that a welcome packet will be put on the website with all the information rather than mailing individual packets. Marlene will send the information to Kris Karcher and she will put it on the website. The new property owners will be identified by the tax records so that newsletters will be sent to them and a notice of the New Property Owner packets on the website will be highlighted in the newsletter.

**Need for volunteers to serve as: President, Vice President and Treasurer for 2018: Doug Murdoch**

Doug shared the need for new officers will be needed at the 2018 meeting and anyone interested let him know. They will be willing to mentor all new volunteers that first year. The Secretary will be staying for another 2 years to help in the transition time.

**Election of Representatives for 2 years:**

Diane Diehm  
Jerry King  
Marvin Bell  
Dan Karcher  
Steve Hill  
Gabe Sheppard

Motion to approve: Jerry Ambrose  
Second: Maxine Murdoch  
Discussion: None. No new volunteers  
Approve/Disapprove: Approved

**Boat Launch Gate Combination: Don Swanson**

(People have been going door to door of neighbors of the boat launch and asking for the combinations to get into the lake. This raises a concern as the neighbors do not know who are property owners and should not be giving out the combination) Don Swanson has ordered a sign to be put on the gate post of the launch with his phone # on it. He will be responsible to giving out the lock code when people call. Neighbors at the launch are not responsible for this and do not give out the code.

**Open Meeting for Comments from Members - PLEASE state your name for the secretary to record.**

**Canadian Geese Problem:** We currently have 6 adult geese and 14 goslings here on the lake. Several years ago we had geese netted and removed. How large does the flock need to be before we consider this again? Gail Bullard. Tom Bullard will contact the DNR to see about netting and relocating geese. He will share this information with Doug and if there is something we need to do, it will be brought to a special meeting or the Annual meeting in 2018.



**Riparian Rights:**

Dan Karcher will be checking with a lawyer to find out the legality of putting out a letter that would address the horsepower of the boats that is brought in through the park.

**Poker Kayak Run: Dan Karcher**

Will set up for over the July 4<sup>th</sup>. Week to be a function and involve all non-motorized boat owners. For now, we will need to find out who is interested in being a host house to hand out a card to all participants. We are thinking each host house might have a small little fun activity, like ladder ball, where participants would need to make a point or win a game before progressing onward. This is intended to be fun while getting to know your neighbor. A suggestion was made to have a prize for the winning hand at the completion of the run. The amount discussed was \$50.00.

Motion: Jerry Ambrose  
Second: Maxine Murdoch  
Discussion: None  
Approval/Disapproval: Approved

**Loon Nesting Ground: Alan Metcalf**

Dale Doepker from Canadian Lakes has been working with Alan Metcalf to install a small raft on our lake that acts as a possible nesting site for loons. It is a 4 ft square raft made from 4" PVC wrapped with plastic mesh for snow fences and uses empty plastic bottles in the center for flotation. It is then covered with about 3 inches of sod and anchored with cable and cement blocks about 50 ft. from shore in a very quiet area.

We think that the area between the Boy Scout camp and Wood Street along the remote shoreline of the park area would be ideal. This area already has had Wood Duck nests in the shallow water where most boats don't travel. We will have to launch it in early spring and they may not choose to nest there for many years but this might provide an area to raise young loons. We have not had any young loons on our lake for almost 20 years although the adults fly in here to mate in the spring and fish in the summer.

Motion to approve: Jerry Ambrose  
Second: Jerry King  
Discussion: None  
Approved/Disapproved: Approved

**NEXT BOARD MEETING – TBA by the President**

**ADJOURN MEETING CLOSED AT: 10:40 AM**

Motion: Doug Murdoch  
Second: Jerry Ambrose  
Approved/Disapproved: Approved