 ​**School Section Lake**

**Property Owners Association**

**P.O. Box 115, Mecosta, Mi 49332**

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SCHOOL SECTION LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

MORTON TOWNSHIP HALL

JUNE 12, 2021

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – PRESIDENT

* Time: 8:30
* Attendance: 37

***Board Officers***

Dan Karcher, President ­22 ***P***

Gabe Sheppard, Vice President ­ 21 ***P***

Jerry Ambrose, Treasurer ­ 22 ***P***

Marlene Schalm, Secretary ­21 ***P***

***Area Reps***

Marty Foster – 22 ***A***

Kurt Cotter ­22 ***P***

Diane Diehm ­ ***21 P***

Jerry King­ 21 ***P***

Margo Miller ­22 ***P***

Marvin Bell ­ 21 ***P***

Duane Morelan - ***22 A***

Laurie Kanouse – ***22 A***

***Committee Chairs***

Finance Committee: Jerry Ambrose & Maxine Murdoch

Fish Planting: Jerry King

Newsletter : Dorothy Metcalf & Maxine Murdoch

Park Liaison: Dan Karcher

Meet Your Neighbor: Laurie Kanouse

Water Quality Management: Chad Kanouse

Gate Code – Don Swanson

Web Site Master: Kris Karcher

Shoreline Preservation: Kris Karcher,

Private Roads: Jim Garland

Mecosta county Parks Supervisor: Jeffrey Abel

Dorothy Metcalf – 22 ***P***

Mark Hamler – 20 ***A***

Maxine Murdoch -20 ***A***

Roberta Hacker – 22 ***P***

Tom Bullard – 21 ***P***

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Special Speakers:

Mecosta County Parks: Jeff Abel Memo sent unable to attend:

Park updates for the meeting:

* The Lodge at the Group Camp has undergone an extensive renovation over the winter season, which included a complete renovation of the lower-level seating area (new paint, flooring, lighting, tables, etc.) as well as an updated drainage system for the commercial sinks within the lodge.  There are no restroom facilities in the lodge itself and the restroom facilities that are on site are tied to a separate septic system further away from the lake.  Photos of the lodge renovations can be seen on the School Section Lake Facebook Page.
* We have installed all new swim area buoys as the old lines and buoys were getting worn down.  The size of the swim area has remained the same.
* We have installed new boater’s education and safety signs throughout School Section Lake Park and provided copies of the signs and digital images to the SSLPOA for use if desired.
* The only potential major project currently being evaluated for the park is the possible addition of new campsites and cabins this fall.  The area being evaluated is the field between the main bathhouse and the modern cabins that were installed a few years ago.  That project is currently in the hands of our engineering firm to evaluate possibilities and potential costs.
* With the parks millage proposal not passing, planned improvements to the beach, beach bathhouse, playgrounds, trails, picnic pavilions, picnic areas, sidewalks, ADA parking spaces,  the one-room schoolhouse, additional fish stocking, and public Wi-Fi services will be on hold for future evaluation and funding possibilities.
* We are in conversations with the DNR regarding conducting online angler surveys throughout this year for School Section Lake, which would provide the DNR Fisheries division the information necessary to make appropriate recommendations toward the fishery.  If this process is finalized, the survey would be made available to everyone who fishes on the lake and catch data from each fishing trip would be appreciated.
* A reminder to all visitors of the lake, that mooring of boats on county property is only permitted within the specified mooring area of the park and with an annual boating permit displayed.  With the pandemic causing boaters and beach visitors to space themselves from each other we experienced increased rule violations from boaters mooring to trees along the shoreline of the park and with people swimming in un-designated swimming areas.  We have been working to ensure compliance with these policies over the past year and will continue to prioritize enforcement of the policies for everyone’s safety.

Mecosta County Commissioner: Linda Howard

* Mecosta County is in good shape. No department is over budget. Public is invited to attend meetings. Our court system is back in session with jury selection. We have a new Sheriff and Drain Commissioner. At the park the Little River School is open and has invited schools to participate in a 1 room school house experience. The school will be open to public on Sundays during the summer. Mecosta village will sponsor 4th of July car show, parade and fireworks. She discussed VRBO’s and difficulties. Also she said there were no State or Federal funds for Gypsy Moth suppression.

Morton Township Supervisor:Mark Klumpp

* Explained what is being done to the paved roads to strengthen them for longer wear. They are reinforcing many roads and also adding Bike paths along main roads for the safety of Bike riders.
* The Gypsy Moth according to Rick Lucas is not a forest problem but a nuisance problem. Trees will recover and only the old, weakened trees because of other problems will die. Tri-lakes has completed their petition drive and have handed it into the township for gathering approval and holding 2 open meetings 30 days apart before it can be added to special assessment collection.
* He also discussed the new pole barn that was built at the Recycling Center which will house a cardboard compactor that was given to the township. They now will be processing cardboard instead of paying someone else to do it.
* The Bike/Hiking trails are being groomed and maintained by volunteers and MDOT.
* VRBO: Vacation Rentals by Owners: Have posed problems for all the lakes around the township. The associations need to continue to educate property owners on the rules of the lakes.

President Report: Dan Karcher

* Kris Karcher has refrigerator magnetic for all property owners that have the rules and the directional map for the Lake. Please get 1 from her today and she will have them available to all owners . Also the park has given us 5 large ones to be put up around the lake. Need volunteers to place them. Kurt Cotter volunteered.

MINUTES OF 2020 ANNUAL MEETING REVIEWED – SECRETARY: Marlene Schalm

* Motion to approve: Mary Jane Holmes
* Second by: Lynn Hacker
* APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL: Approval

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TREASURER’S 2020-2021 REPORT AS REVIEWED – TREASURER: Jerry Ambrose

PROPOSED BUDGET 2021-2022 AS READ

* Motion to Approve: Mary Jane Holmes
* Second: Kris Karcher
* Discussion/Corrections: The weed spraying account has a balance of $35,521.00 excess.. A proposal is being made to reduce the special assessment by 25% for all property owners for 5 years. Each year we collect $11,600.00 and our expenses run around $10,100.00. If we reduce the collection for 5 years we will be able to use up some of the excess and at the renewal date we can decide if we need to raise it back up to original collection of continue with the reduced fee. If by chance the weed problem should be come worst and extra funds are needed we will revisit this reduction sooner than 5 years but we do not for see this happening.

The Annual dues will remain at $20.00/per year. So far we have received dues from 77 property owners.

* Approved/ Disapproved: Approved

Report from Committee Chairpersons:​

​**Finance Committee**​Audit – Maxine Murdoch/Jerry Ambrose

The financial information for the previous years was reviewed by Maxine Murdock, who found no discrepancies. Unfortunately, Maxine was not able be at the annual meeting to say this in person.

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

Dorothy mentioned that Historical pictures and stories of the lake as always a welcomed addition to the Newsletter. If you have any to share, please give to Dorothy or Maxine.

**Fish Planting –** Jerry King

The fish fund continues to be replenished by property owners so that the fish purchase can be made every year. The Park has always contributed to the fund but may not do so because their millage this spring did not pass. Jerry will get verification on this and will also be getting the permits with DNR for the planting in October.

**Shoreline Preservation** – Kris Karcher

The shoreline is the responsibility of the Association.. The magnets for Lake Rules are a project for this group. Also the placement of the larger signs by Kurt Cotter will help make all people aware of the route they are to take around the lake and other safety rules.

**Water Quality Management** ​– Chad Kanouse

Chad was unable to fulfill the water testing this year as he sold his boat. We need a volunteer to take on this responsibility. Preferable someone who is here most of the year as there are specific times and water criteria. Kris Karcher has the kit and will walk anyone through the steps if they are willing to collect the water.

**Gate Code -** Don Swanson

The Gate code was not changed this year. A new chain and lock were purchased and it is more readable. When opening use the upper line for each number. Kurt and Jerry King will fix gate as it needs to be straightened.

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**Web Site and Facebook**​– Kris Karcher

**Meet your Neighbor**​– Laurie Kanouse

2020 was cancelled because of Covid and it was also decided to cancel 2021 for the same reason. Several attendees requested that it be revisited and have the picnic as the Covid restrictions have been lifted. Dan will contact Laurie to get her feedback as to whether it is too late to plan.

***Upcoming Event Dates:***

▪ Board Meeting: Called as necessary by president

* Boat Parade will be led by the Cotter Family July 3, 2021 @ 7:30 PM:
* Meet Your Neighbor: Cancelled
* Fish Planting at Boat Ramp: Fall date to be determined (October)
* Non-Motorized Poker Run: Saturday, July 24, 2021, 12:00-4:00
* Lighted Boat Parade: September 4,2021

***OLD BUSINESS:***

None

***NEW BUSINESS***

Election of Governing Board Vacancies for 2 Year Term: . This year we have 6 up for reelection. Those who have finished their term this year are Jerry King, Marvin Bell, Diane Diehm, Tom Bullard, Gabe Sheppard and Marlene Schalm is willing to serve another term.

Motion: MaryJane Holmes

Second: Kris J=Karcher

Discussion: None

Approved/Disapproved: Approved

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Weed Control renewal For 5 additional Years, 2021-2026:

The renewal for 5 years would be at a reduced rate. Those paying $40.00 would pay $30.00 per parcel and those paying $20.00 would be reduced to $15.00. This will be reviewed at the 5 year renewal and if the collection continues to be above the expenditure, it would continue. If we see that more is needed each year because of excessive weeds, the amount will return to the previous amount.

* **Extending Renewal from every 3 years to 5 years**

Motion: Mike Baldwin

Second: Jerry King

Discussion: Wondered if we could get a 5 year contract with the company instead of 3 year. We will check with the company.

Approved/Disapproved: approved

* **Reduction of 25% Assessment per Parcel**

Motion: Jerry King

Second: MaryJane Holmes

Discussion: The price has remained the same for 9 years. Reduction in assessment will allow use of the excess on the account. If we continue to have a Lake in good order, we will not need to increase the assessment back to what it was. If we see the balance becoming too low, we will revisit this issue with all property owners at a general meeting.

Approve/Disapprove: Approved with 3 Disapproval

**Gypsy moths** control:. The cost to spray is $120.00– $150.00 per acre and we have 245 acres with 250 property owners/375 parcels. Rough math means that this would cost each property owner $120/$147 extra per year with no guarantees. If Tri-Lakes and Canadian Lakes are also on board, the cost would be less.

* A Petition be developed and signatures collected and presented to the Township board for a special assessment for Gypsy Moth suppression program.

Motion: MaryJane Holmes

Second: Margo Miller

Discussion: Petition has to be signed by 51% of property owners and then is presented to Morton Township who

will verify the signatures and hold the 2 public meetings 30 days apart. They then make the determination on the whether to move forward on the special assessment.

Approve/Disapprove: Approved with 2 disapprovals

MEETING ADJOURNED:

Time: 10:15

First: Kris Karcher

Second: Margo Miller

Approved/Disapproved: Approved