



School Section Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 115, Mecosta, Mi 49332

schoolsectionlake@gmail.com

SCHOOL SECTION LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
MORTON TOWNSHIP HALL
JUNE 09, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – PRESIDENT

- Time: 9:10
- Attendance: 53

Board Officers

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

Gabe Sheppard - 19
Kris Karcher - 18
Dorothy Metcalf - 18

Area Reps

Kurt Cotter -18
Diane Diehm -19
Jerry King-19
Darlene Bunker -18
Margo Miller -18
Marvin Bell -19
Don Swanson - 19
Keith Cotter-19
Dan Karcher – 19
Jim Pratt - 18
Judy Rowland - 18
Steve Hill - 19

Committee Chairs

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

unapproved

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

- Motion to approve: Ralph Morrison
- Second by: Kris Karcher
- Discussion/Corrections: None
- Approval/Disapproval: Approved

TREASURER'S 2017-2018 REPORT AS READ – TREASURER: Janine Mills/Maxine Murdoch

- Motion to approve: MaryJane Holmes
- Second: Ralph Morrison
- Discussion/Corrections: None
- Approved/Disapproved: Approved

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2018--2019.

- Motion to Approve: Maxine Murdoch
- Second: David Hopkins
- Discussion/Corrections: None
- Approved/Disapproved: Approved

President Report: Doug Murdoch

Doug stated this was to be his last Annual Meeting as President but he was staying on as a representative. He appreciated everyone's help and supports the ability of working together at building relationships. School Section Lake is the jewel of the County and everyone is working to keep it that way. The association has been in existence since the 70's. I know you will continue to work towards the beauty of the Lake. Thank you to everyone.

Jeff Abel-Mecosta County Parks Supervisor: (231-972-7450 Phone# of Park)

Renovations took place this past spring to the Septic system. Now all the buildings and campsites run into it. The bathhouses were updated and a new one built with family and handicap stalls. 69 sites have full hookup with the potential for 40 more sites. The Pavilion interior has been renovated and free Wi-Fi is now available. The boat mooring has to purchase a county boat pass for \$25.00. There are no future plans to put in more dock space and if so, the DEQ would have to be involved. Ralph Morrison and Jerry King brought up the problem of swimmers crossing the water between the camp and island, creating a safety hazard. If this is seen, notify the park and they will immediately address the problem. John Sheppard asked how many boats can be moored which had been addressed. Maxine Murdoch asked if non motorized boats could park on the park without having a \$25.00 boat pass as long as they are pulled out of the water onto land. John Rowland ask about the boating rules and Mr. Abel stated that they are posted all around and a copy is given to with the pass which is signed for. Mark Perrin ask if No swimming signs could be put up and Mr. Abel ask that we let them know where and they will put them up. Jackie Perrin asks about the park swimming after spraying. The park is posted by the company that sprays and if they did not spray the whole lake or around the swim area of the park, they do not have to post no swimming. Mark Hamle asked about the "No Pet" rule the camp has and there are no changes on this ruling as it is a family park and pets would cause possible problems. Doug closed with an appreciation of the partnership with the park, funding for the fish fund, and ability to work together. Property owners need to be sure that friends, relatives, and renters are aware of the lake rules as well as the campers.

Linda Howard-Mecosta County Commissioner

The Marine patrol is funded by the state and grants and is all based on the size of the Lake. School Section does have monitoring occasionally and usually on holiday weekends. Morton Township is working on bike and walking trails which will start at the Village and go to the Big Rapids white trail. This will be a work in progress over many years and as the Road Commission paves roads, they will widen and pave the pathways. The township is working on maps to be put on their website in the future. Buchanan will be resurfaced in the fall or early spring 2019 from the 4 way stops at Country Corners to Park Entrance. They will correct the problem that is in the road at this time. This is free weekend at the Park so anyone interested in seeing the improvements should take advantage and go and see all that has been done. The Little River School House was used this past May by many schools as a teaching tool for in and out of county schools. Children got a taste of what it was like to attend a one room school house.

Report from Committee Chairpersons:

Finance Committee Audit – Janine Mills & Maxine Murdoch:

A yearly audit will be done at the end of the fiscal year which is June 30, 2018. At that time a new treasurer will take over the books. We thank Janine for stepping up to the plate and taking the job of treasurer to see us through the past 2 years. Maxine Murdoch will continue to do the yearly auditing.

Newsletter Editors – Dorothy Metcalf/Maxine Murdoch:

(Change for next year's spring letter – Gate Code will be in the newsletter)

Kris Karcher also mentioned that she is putting the newsletter online at the website but she is taking out all addresses and phone # to protect people's privacy. When it goes on the website, the gate code will also be blocked out to continue privacy. Dorothy would like more articles and pictures for the newsletter.

Fish Planting – Jerry King

Jerry has talked with some of our adamant fisherman and they are catching 40-50 legal size Walleye which are over 25" long. It use to be the fisherman that were the predator on the lake but as the interest in fishing has decreased, the stunted Pike and Bass have become the predators. The only way to stop the stunting is to introduce another predator which is the Walleye. If you planted bluegills they would only become food for the larger fish because they are not a predatory fish. Planting fish does not cause the snail problem; birds carry them in any they multiply. Snails are responsible for the clarity of the water, so even though they are a mess on our beaches, they are good for the lake.

Water Quality Management/Gate Code– Don Swanson (Marty Foster)

Depth finding for clarity in the spring is 18', but in July when the water level is lower and boating is at its peak, the clarity will be around 12'. The water sampling has been done and sent in but the report is not out yet. The level of the lake is controlled by the natural stream that runs into the little Muskegon River there is no inlet as our lake is spring fed.

Web Site Master– Kris Karcher (Dan Karcher)

The website www.schoolsectionlake.com continues to grow with new items and pictures being added frequently. The website had 148 visitors in May. New items that have been added to the web are the Welcome Packets for new property owners and the spring and fall newsletter. Kris will add the links to the Riparian and Lake & Stream magazines and she will add the plat maps put out by the township. The Facebook group has grown to 129 members and so far everything has been positive. Keep the comments and pictures flowing.

Meet your Neighbor– Denise Ronning (Retired):

Maxine Murdoch will organize the door prizes, plenty of people to help with food prep, set-up and tear-down. A new property owner, Laurie Kanouse has volunteered to be the Coordinator. Marlene Schalm will order the tent, table and chairs from Marshall's in Lakeview, Mi. Margo Miller gave an over view of how this function got started.

Weed Control- Doug Murdoch

Contract is good until 2020. Our lake is the best in the county for clarity and weed control and the second best in Michigan. With the constant monitoring and weed control we can keep it that way. When the company does monitoring quite often they only have to do spot spraying which helps keep the ban on swimming down to a minimum.

Upcoming Event Dates:

- Board Meeting: Called as necessary by president
- July 4, 2018 @ 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)
- Non-Motorized Poker Run: July 28, 2018

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Subdivision Signs: Don Swanson (*need list of new property owners in Restmore, Pleasant View/Wood St. & Oak Park II/E. School Section Lake Dr. =possibly Maxine from tax records/at time of spring newsletter.*) Don Swanson will continue to make the signs for a fee. If you are interested and live in the subdivision of either Restmore Resort, Pleasant View or Oak Park II, let him know and they will be able to make you a sign.

New Property Owner packets mailings: Marlene Schalm

The packet has been given to Kris Karcher to be put on the website. New Property owners have been identified and addressed in the Spring Newsletter. This will be done again in the fall newsletter. Possibly could a postcard be designed to send out to new property owners welcoming them and giving them the website and facebook information.

Proposal: Send postcards to new property owners welcoming them and letting them know all welcome packets information is on the website. Purchase of postcards and secretary will send out in Spring and Fall with the township tax records.

Motion: Maxine Murdoch

Second: Kris Karcher

Discussion: This is being done this way as printing and mailing has become expensive and time consuming. People need to be notified and welcomed with the information of our website and facebook page.

Approved/Disapproved: Approved

Boat Launch Combination: Changed this year on May 12th. To 5426, email sent out same day with code change. Marlene is still receiving emails asking for the code. Property owners need to get on the email list for future information or call phone # on the gate). Jerry King reminded everyone to use the graphic design business in Mecosta to keep it local.
Purchase Durable Sign by Doug Murdoch.

Motion: Maxine Murdoch

Second: John Sheppard

Discussion: Everyone agreed that a permanent sign needed to be put up as the one that is there now will need to be replaced often.

Approved/Disapproved: Approved

- Non Motorized Poker Run: Dan Karcher Date set for July 28th, 2018. Last year's Poker Run was a huge success with participants and host houses all having a wonderful time. This year's run will be \$2
- 0.00 admission fee with half of the proceeds going towards prizes and the other half to be used for something on the lake such as fish fund. This will determined at the time of the Run.

NEW BUSINESS

Election on Representatives for 2 Year Term: The following has volunteered to be representatives for a 2 year term. Are there any others that would like to serve on the board from 2018-2020?

Doug Murdoch
Marty Foster
Janine Mills
Marlene Schalm
Margo Miller
Keith Cotter
Kris Karcher
Dorothy Metcalf
Maxine Murdoch
Duane Morelan
Jerry Ambrose
Mark Hamle
Laurie Kamhouse
Christy Ishraidi

Motion: Ralph Morrison
Second: Dan Karcher
Discussion: None
Approved/Disapproved: Approved

- **Canadian Geese: Tom 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.

“ I have contacted a company that helps in geese round up. Round ups need to be approved by the DNR. Also the lake must have at least 25 geese to be considered. Cost involved is 200.00 for application fee and 500.00 for round up. Round up is performed in June. We will be contacted next year when applications are to be presented. A petition must be presented to the property owners or a resolution can be made by the Association to allow the round up. At this time we have not seen any geese on the lake, maybe our problem has already been solved”

After much discussion, Jeff Abel said that the Mecosta County Parks monitored this each year at all their parks and if a problem arose, they had the funding to follow through on their removal. A count and notifying the parks that we had more than 25 geese on the lake would need to be done in the fall so the DNR permit could be obtained prior to the geese arriving in the spring.

- **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

The nesting raft has been built and put in the alcove between the camp and Wood St. It will take several years before the Loons will nest in it so it will be monitored each spring. A suggestion was made that another be put on the North end of the lake as that is where they are this year.

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

1. Could the Walkways be marked so that individuals can easily locate them for use without walking on personal property. Mark Hamle

It was decided that the plat maps will be on the website and anyone wanting to know where the walkways are, can look at these maps as they are highlighted in green and marked as such.

2. Could the minutes from the annual meeting be sent out unapproved after the meeting along with the financial report. Brace Case

It was decided that minutes would be put on the website and watermarked as "unapproved" as they would not be approved until our next annual meeting.

3. In general as my understanding we have about 150 members each year, at 20.00 each that amounts to \$3000.00 each year for the budget. We pay for paper for the mailings, Lakeside pays the postage. We pay a small amount for the water clarity test. The weed spraying doesn't come out of this 3000.00, or the fish funding. We do pay 800.00 a year for liability insurance for the board, which for past years has only met ONCE a year. Then we pay 1250.00 for a two hr party, which basically is 68% of our budget for a 2 hour party, 2050.00 for the party and the insurance!!! If the majority of the association feels this is being fiscal responsible then I guess my question has been answered. Larry Bunker

The Association did not feel this was an issue and would continue to function as it has been.

4. I live on Oakridge Parkway and wondered who takes care of the roads and repairs. Pilar Zambrano

Oakridge Parkway has always been a private drive not a county road. The care and maintenance is the responsibility of the property owners.

5. Would it be possible for the association to have a parcel of land for property owners to park their boat trailers on during the summer months when the boats are in the water.

This is not an association responsibility.

6. Could the Fish Fund plant Bluegills instead of Walleye with the funds in the fish fund? Fish fund is not a part of the dues or Association. The Treasurer does manage the bookkeeping and paying the bills from the account) Finances and distribution are handled by Jerry King.

As per the food chain, small bluegills are not a predatory fish and would be eaten by Pike and Walleye which are both predatory and can hold their own. That is why you introduce another predatory fish which keeps the Pike population in check.

NEXT BOARD MEETING – TBA by the President

ADJOURN MEETING AT: 11:45AM

Motion: John Rowland

Second: Michelle Foster

Approved/Disapproved: Approved

unapproved