

PAW PAW LAKE ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2010

Called to order:

President Stepich called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Members Present:

Joe Stepich, Ray Lechner, Len Metheny, Charlie Pater, John Phillips, Lou Presta, Kent Walczak, Kip Wright.

Members Absent:

Ken Krengel.

Approval of Agenda

Per Ken Krengel add a discussion about possible monitoring of PPL Golf Course water consumption and the legal settlement with Nature's Cove.

Presentation

Scott Richcreek, Watervliet Fire Chief, made a presentation. He reported that he is looking to provide better services to Paw Paw Lake. There is an agreement with Coloma to assist each other when called for an emergency. Watervliet is seeking additional equipment to help the Lake. Watervliet purchased equipment to better handle winter ice rescues. Coloma purchased a Hovercraft several years ago and has a dive team they can dispatch.

Watervliet has been researching fire safety and rescue boats, having identified one they would like to purchase (Rescue One Connector). This is a stable flat bottom boat, 40 horsepower that can handle 6 fireman comfortably. It is designed for surface rescues and fire fighting (pump included). The cost is \$32,000 and he is seeking financial assistance. The audience asked several questions about the boat, its utility, pump strength, costs, etc.

Audience Discussion: The Paw Paw Lake Foundation has agreed to donate \$5,000 to support. The need to cooperate with Coloma on all lake fire/safety issues is important.

Motion made by Len Metheny to approve \$5,000 to donate to the Watervliet Fire Department, subject to Village Board approval, seconded by Kipp Wright. There was discussion that ensued. Joe Stepich discussed the current difficulties with fighting house fires on Paw Paw Lake. He detailed the need for this boat, as present fire protection is not adequate. The motion was unanimously approved.

Kipp Wright discussed fire lanes and the need to keep them accessible. Charlie Pater talked about the need to have neighbors self-police. Kent Walczak mentioned the local Ordinance Officer. Joe Stepich talked about the complexities involved with ordinance enforcement, multiple municipalities, etc. Charlie Pater mentioned the importance of dry hydrants and how they would help keep them open.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Len Metheny, and seconded by Kipp Wright, to approve the May meeting minutes. The May 1, 2009 minutes were unanimously approved.

Financial Report:

Len Metheny, treasurer reported \$181,103.94 in total funds. We receive the bulk of our revenue in spring with the expenses going out in the summer. The bulk of summer disbursements involve weed treatment. The Treasurer increased petty cash fund by \$100 to help with cash flow (stamps etc.). In terms of revenues and expenditures, we are little behind on membership dues and the expenditures for weed treatment have yet to be charged.

Reports:

Weed treatment: Joe thanked Charlie & Linda Pater, and Len & Jan Metheny, for putting out the flags. This is a very challenging job and they do a great job. We will try hard to ensure we don't have to do this again. Charlie Pater reported that everyone was treated who paid, including last minute requests. The weeds were horrible this year, worse than ever (warmer weather and lower water level). A second treatment is pending based on the requests that are received.

Boat Parade:

Judy Parisi is chairing the event this year. The event is scheduled for July 17, with a rain date of July 24 2010.

Dinner Dance:

The dinner dance is tentatively scheduled for July 31, 2010. Kip Wright is chairing this event. Kipp reported that the theme is "Ship Wrecked." Joe pressed the need to increase attendance.

Lake improvement project:

A joint township Board meeting was held in May to discuss the project. The report was presented and summarized with the following recommendations:

1. Weed control would involve a 5-year program to treat Eurasian Milfoil, using the chemical Sonar (Fluorodyne). At issue is the phosphorus being released into the lake providing nutrients to Eurasian Milfoil. At the bottom of the lake there is sediment, which holds organic materials, which release phosphorus during decomposition into the lake. The plan would be to treat the entire lake mid May and again mid June. The following year re-inspect and spot treat (continue this for 5 years).
2. The second recommendation involves the sediment at the bottom of the lake, which contains phosphorus (that feeds the weeds). Dredging is the best option. However, the entire Lake would need to be dredged and the cost was estimated at \$35 million. Being too costly, the second consideration was to cap the

phosphorus. As a result there are two five-year pilot programs being recommended to cap the phosphorus.

- a. The first pilot involves aeration, which includes pumping air into the bottom sediment of the lake. Aeration will help dissolve organic materials in the sediment. Aeration also creates an oxygen barrier that prohibits the release of phosphorus up into the lake.
 - b. The second 5-year pilot, in a separate area of the Lake, would be to cap the sediment with alum. This also provides a barrier preventing phosphorus from rising from the bottom.
3. Another suggestion was to install water and hoses at each boat launch so boats can be cleaned before and after entry into lake.

Joe Stepich reported that the townships Boards worked cooperatively together, expressing interest in the project and are seeking bids. The joint township committee will review the bids and determine total costs. That costs will be the basis for a public hearing (late June/early July). This process involves determining all administrative costs, and the need for a special assessment district.

The goal is for implementation beginning in 2011.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

MSLA membership renewal: Joe received a notice that this has not been renewed. Len indicated he will take care of this

Community events support: Each year the Association discussed the need to be present at specific events to show visibility (e.g. July 4th parades). However, we don't have a plan. Charlie Pater suggested establishing an annual budget for donations to community organizations/events. Len talked about the need to be visible. Ray Lechner mentioned the real need to seek volunteers to chair lead community visibility projects. Joe commented about the need to be visible as we are all part of the same community.

Len Metheny moved and Kent Walczak that the PPLA be part of the 2010 Watervliet July 4th and the 2010 Glad Peach Festival, establishing a \$500 budget for each event. Motion was unanimously carried.

This led to a discussion about projecting revenues and identifying new revenue sources for the Association. Kip Wright agreed to chair a small committee with Len Metheny and Charlie Pater to look at long term financial planning (future expenses for a Board without weed treatment as well as revenues).

Support letter re phosphorus fertilizer legislation:

Joe Stepich reported that the State of Michigan has proposed legislation to eliminate the use of phosphorus in all fertilizers.

Len Metheny moved that the PPLA Board send a letter to local State representatives in support of the pending no phosphorus legislation. This was seconded by Charlie Pater and unanimously approved. Charlie suggested that we also put a notice about this legislation in the Newsletter.

Water systems at boat launches:

This is one of the recommendation made at the joining township meeting. The DNR is in support of adding wells, hoses and signage to encourage daily boat users to wash boats before/after they use the lake. Charlie suggested that we implement this through a joint venture with the Lake Foundation.

New items:

Monitoring Golf Course Watering consumption: Charlie Pater reported that based on a court order, we have a right to monitor water usage at the golf course. There is a meter and we are permitted do this. Joe commented that every time it was checked in the past, they are within the limits. At this time no major concern noted. If the lake level becomes low, then monitoring may be indicated.

Natures Cove: Charlie Pater reported that they can't rent/lease slips and only one boat per slip. They are only permitted to use low voltage lighting, and the are using high voltage lighting.

Audience and Board Comments

Jean Sipes asked for Board guidance. She has a lot of PPLA records that Del Sipes had collected and she is not sure what to do with them. John Phillips agreed to take the information, review it and make recommendations. She was thanked for her donation of this memorabilia, records and history.

Hal Bundy asked why the lake level is so high. The Board responded that the rain causes this and it is controlled locally.

Bill Bedo asked about the lake maps that Jean Sipes was offering. The Board will take those maps as well.

Kent Walczak commented that the golf course was about to subdivide, sell new lots on Paw Paw Avenue, and include boat slips. Joe indicated that was correct. There are 16 new lots, possibly 8 having deeded lake access. These would be existing slips (no new slips would be built). Kent is concerned that slips may be used twice (sold to both owners). Joe reported that he as a fixed number of slips and no more can be built. Joe will investigate with the Township.

Charlie indicated that the annual Goose Roundup will be on June 15th. Geese are collected and donated to the DNR. This year the carp shoot is not being held, need 15-20 boats and only had 7.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Len Metheny and seconded by Kip Wright to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Lechner, PPLA Board Secretary