

LAKE GEORGE COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
MAY 14, 2011

Directors or alternate present at this meeting: Spring Bank (N) Carrol ; Spring Bank (S) Zandstra ;
LG Beach (N) Kruse ; LG Beach (S) Case ; LG Beach (W) Ort ; Forest Park (S) Strasser ;
Forest Park (C) King ; Forest Park (N) Parker ; Browns Point (W) Uslar ; Browns Point (E) Stander
; Kopekanee Beach Ferguson ; Spring Bank (M) Hagerman ; Nipigon Bch Mote ;
Grandview Bch Schlatter ; Hanover Bch Newby ; Kope Kon (W) Brenneke ; Kope Kon Pte (E)
Huffman ; Bayview Burrows

At a Directors Meeting only Directors are allowed to vote. Members may (are encouraged to) offer input/comments.

Each of the above-listed Beaches are allowed only one vote.

1. Roll Call and Directors Count: A monthly meeting of the Lake George Cottagers Association was held in the Lake

George Conservancy Building on May 14, 2011. The meeting was convened by President Dave Stang at 8:37 A.M.

Also present were Treasurer Marilyn Parrot, Secretary Jennifer Shirey, 9 Beach Directors (names marked above) and 13 guests.

President Stang asked if there were any additions or corrections to the agenda and none were given.

President Stang announced that Jennifer Shirey will now be serving as the Lake George Cottagers Association Secretary.

2. Guest Speaker: President Stang introduced the guest speaker, Jim Donahoe, from Aquatic Weed Survey, Inc.

It was noted that his company works in conjunction with the DNR and that some government funding is available.

Mr. Donahoe reported that Lake George would be surveyed twice for starry stone wort and milfoil, once between

May 15th and June 15th and another time in late July. The cost of the treatments will be no more than \$14,500 for the Michigan side and no more than \$17,500 for the Indiana side. A new requirement for Michigan residents only is

that written permission will be required for all property owners where spraying will occur. There can be no spraying within 100 feet on each side of a property where written permission was not given. In Michigan, the swimming restrictions are for one day only. In Indiana there are no swimming restrictions.

Questions arose as to how to prevent these undesirable weeds from infiltrating the lake. It was noted that there are signs posted at the boat launch ramp concerning the importance of washing boats before entering the lake.

However, there is no requirement to do so as there is on some lakes.

Mr. Donahoe reported that President Stang will be given the results of the surveys soon after they are completed.

3. Secretary's Report: There was no secretary's report.

4. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Parrot noted in her report that, from January 1st to May 13th, Lake George Cottagers Association has a net income of \$76,790.79. It was also stated that, as of today's date, only 68% of cottage owners have paid their 2011 dues.

5. Committee Reports:

a) Boat Safety - Rules and Booklets: Our boat safety advisor did not attend the meeting. It was noted, however, that the date of the boating class has been set and that notification of that date will be sent via e-mail.

b) New member committee (Welcome Wagon) - Jane Mote: Jane Mote announced that new residents will receive a gift basket and a laminated sheet of Lake George boating rules and regulations. So far the committee is aware of 9 new residents.

MOTION: President Stang moved that up to \$50 per basket be allotted for this project. Tom Stone seconded the motion. Motion carried.

c) Nominating committee - Nancy Stiefel, Tom Stone: Nancy Stiefel and Rick Stander make up this committee though more volunteers are needed. It was reported that some positions need replacements including the position of President. To date, no names have been submitted. President Stang noted that we could use more representation from the Forest Park area.

6. Old Business:

a) Communications - e-mail address: President Stang asked that anyone with a new e-mail address please

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notify Lake George Cottagers Association as the price of postage continues to rise.

b) Recent items about the dam: President Stang reported that a letter was written to the DNR in July, 2010 and he is sure it arrived as a return receipt was received. In the letter, clarification was asked concerning

several items. Because of a lack of response President Stang indicated he is comfortable doing virtually nothing. He did note that if they would happen to respond positively to the contents of the letter the hazard level of the dam might be able to be lowered. As it is now, the high hazard level of the dam requires that a safety survey be made every other year. It was noted that one was due in 2010.

Rick Weaver began the work of seeking bids from various engineering companies and it was decided to employ Patriot Engineering who came in with a price of \$2500 to do the survey. The survey was performed on June 4th. The engineers walked all around the dam and noted that the walls of the spillway were cracked but not seriously. They suggested that the angle of the embankment be increased from 2 foot up and 1 foot out to 4 foot up and 1 foot out. They also noted that some road widening might be necessary.

Patriot Engineering stated that a report will be put together and a representative will be present at our June meeting to discuss its content. It was also pointed out that we will still need DNR guidance in order to proceed with the necessary improvements.

President Stang read some sentences from a 2006 survey report which detailed information concerning overflow locations along the dam embankment roadway. The information that was read covered elevation levels of certain low lying areas along the west side of the lake and northeast of the spillway. It was also noted that the overflow will discharge to Long Beach Lake located upstream of the tollroad and west of Lake George. The exact location of where the overflow water will go is uncertain.

It was decided that a surveyor should be hired who would, using a topography map and a sophisticated GPS system, zero in on this location. The surveyor would need to walk the beachline in question and then make a notation of low spots which are within 2 feet of the water level. The goal would be to determine the exact location of the emergency spillway into Long Beach Lake.

A local surveyor came in with a cost of \$150 an hour to do this project and stated that it would take about 2

hours to find this spillway assuming it exists.

MOTION: Gary Zandstra moved that up to \$1500 be allotted for this walking survey. Stan Newby seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tax District Concept: President Stang reported that a desire has been expressed to try and organize a tax district in order to secure funds for major Lake George related needs. It has been determined that there are three areas where funds need to be made available. They are dam upkeep, weed control, and a dam replacement fund. Research indicates that approximately \$3,000 annually is necessary for dam upkeep, \$32,000 is necessary for weed control and, at some future date, up to \$1,000,000 could be needed for dam replacement.

Gordon Huffman, Dick Burrows and John Albright have agreed to approach local government officials in both Indiana and Michigan and present our cause. President Stang stated that Michigan has a very expedient process of organizing such a district. However, Indiana could take approximately 6 months to organize such a district. In both states, a petition needs to be sent to affected residents. In Michigan, only 51% need to agree to the proposal and an even lesser percentage in Indiana. Public hearings will also be necessary.

There are 510 properties that would be part of this taxing district. It has been determined that each individual property owner would be assessed approximately \$200-300 annually if the district becomes a reality.

MOTION: Brent Cousino moved that \$33,500 be allocated to pay for this year's spraying for starry stone wort and milfoil. It was seconded by Connie Carroll. Motion carried.

7. New Business:

a) By-laws: Jack Stiefel is in the process of reviewing last year's revisions to the by-laws. He plans to put them in a nice grammatical format. He will present his findings and any necessary changes at the June meeting.

b) Buoy: President Stang announced that the buoys are in the process of going in the water. Some have mentioned that moving these buoys in and out of the water can be damaging to the boats of those assigned to complete the task. Gary Zandstra suggested someone be hired to do this work and thought maybe Mark Davenport might be interested.

c) Fishing remarks: President Stang reported that there have been complaints about dead fish washing up on beaches. Rick Stander shared that there will always be dead fish especially in the spring. Concerning the bass tournaments only about 10% of those caught and released will die as a result. President Stang asked if there is a limit to how many tournaments can be held on the same lake. Rick Stander stated, though this a gray area, there is very little that can be done to limit the number of tournaments. Rick reported that the tournaments are held on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings on Lake George and they last 4 hours. He emphasized that, if possible, people should turn in fishermen who are caught breaking the rules of the lake. If caught disobeying lake laws, the fishermen will be disqualified from the contest.

d) Army Corps of Engineers meeting: Linda Hagerman attended an Army Corps of Engineers meeting in Fort Wayne. Linda shared that regulatory rules were discussed. It was reported that if anyone calls the Army Corps of Engineers about issues in their area of expertise, they will send out people free of charge. Linda suggested they be called when questions arise. Rick Stander shared that involving the Corps has sometimes led to people being assessed for putting piers in the water.

8: Announcements:

a) Sailing School: The dates of the sailing school have been set for July 11, July 12, and July 13. Classes will be held at Hall's Party Barn.

b) Reminder of annual meeting and elections: The annual Lake George Cottagers Association meeting and election of officers will be held the 2nd Saturday of July.

c) Garage Sale: There will be no Conservancy Garage Sale this year. However, there will be the annual Lake George garage sale on the 17th and 18th of June. Jennifer Shirey will call the newspapers to advertise for the 2 day event.

d) FEMA: FEMA has announced that they have released a remapping which will indicate whether or not people seeking a mortgage or refinancing on a property will need to secure flood insurance.

Residents should check to see if their property falls in an area requiring flood insurance.

e) Taste of Summer: Joann Stang announced that the Lake George Conservancy fundraiser Stem and Stein has now been renamed Taste of Summer. The event will take place on June 25th at Glendarin Hills Golf Club. The cost of tickets sold in advance is \$45 per person and \$50 if purchased at the door. Anyone seeking to purchase tickets should contact ticket chairman Jennifer Shirey. All proceeds will go toward Lake George Conservancy projects.

f) Lake George Conservancy Management: President Stang introduced Don Parrish who is serving

as the interim president of the Conservancy. Linda Hagerman has agreed to serve as interim treasurer. Bill Brenneke will be chairing the finance committee. It was also announced that Charlene Hudson, an accountant and Quickbook specialist out of Coldwater, has been hired to take care of book-keeping for the Conservancy.

The Lake George Conservancy annual meeting will be held on June 18th at the Conservancy building.

President Parrish shared that these new leaders are hoping to reeducate interested parties as to the purpose of the Conservancy. He also emphasized that residents need to be aware of the different responsibilities of the Lake George Cottage Association and the Conservancy. He also noted that some of this information hasn't been made transparent and the new leadership is hoping to change that.

A committee for the Conservancy will be canvassing the lake this summer in an attempt to answer all questions of residents. The committee will also be encouraging members to continue paying toward their pledges. They will also be seeking new pledges from those who haven't yet made one.

In addition, the Conservancy Board will be seeking new members from areas of the lake not yet represented.

President Parrish noted that the Conservancy is also committed to the continued improvement of our lake's water quality.

It was noted that 100 white oaks have been planted on Conservancy land. Also, prairie grass and clover have been planted to attract birds like wild turkey, pheasant and quail.

It was announced that the Conservancy plans to pay off by October of this year one of the 2 land contracts that make up the Conservancy property.

President Parrish spoke of the need to eliminate misconceptions where the Conservancy is concerned and encouraged everyone to get together for the betterment of Lake George.

g) **Sedimentation Pond:** Renate Brenneke announced that Mr. Albright who owns the farm just northwest of Lake George on Flint Road has created a sedimentation pond to help control the run-off into the Caroline Drive channel. Renate noted that the channel's water quality has significantly improved.

h) **Next meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for the second Saturday in June at 8:30 A.M.

MOTION: Gary Zandstra moved that the meeting be adjourned. It was seconded by Rick Stander.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.