

MORTON TOWNSHIP
TRI-LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC.

Aug. 6, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: President Dave Lewis

Board Members in Attendance; Dave Lewis, Sandy Brogan, Karen Slenk, Craig Wernette, Randy Walsdorf, Joan Parks, Julia Harris, Al McNamara, Mike Burnard, Myle Turpen, Bruce Miller, Alex Henry

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion to accept minutes with several edits, passed

APPROVAL OF TREASURERS REPORT: July 1 — August 1, motion to approve, passed

Total Income \$ 460.00
Total Expenses \$ 728.07

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fish and Wildlife Management:

- Quote for Walleye, \$9,031.20 plus \$50 delivery charge per lake, motion to approve the amount to order fish. Passed
- Discussion on fish planting. Increasing the population of large predatory fish holds down numbers of small pan fish, which in turn keep algae-eating Zooplankton in check.
- Are the bass fishermen taking Walleye, most Walleye are taken through the ice. May be using inland lake or Saginaw bay size restrictions.
- There have been several complaints about bass tournaments clogging the narrows area by the launch.

Lake Improvement:

- The Lake improvement board scheduled two back to back public hearing meetings, one covering practicability and the other covering assessment role, August 11, 7:30 p.m. Total collected per year will remain about \$90,000. There is a surplus on hand. Board approves changes to assessment roles. This is for the process of establishing the next 5-year plan. Dictated by statute, established by Morton township board. There is an opening for the Riparian Representative, The Tri-Lakes Association recommends Randy Walsdorf for a 4-year term. He accepted.
- This year the secchi readings in Blue and Mecosta are getting lower, which means less clarity. Round Lake is getting clearer. Treatment on Blue Lake this year made a huge difference. Good feedback on the access back to the waterwheel this year.

Loons:

- New chick

Dam:

- All the boards are down

Public Landing:

- Tomorrow morning at 9:30 will be a boat wash event at the Launch. They do not need any volunteers
- Andy Saxton said that he already has a site plan worked out. The North Country CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management area.) has grant money available toward the purchase of a boat wash.

- Cost for a simple boat wash is \$3000, a higher end wash at \$40,000. Mark from 3D systems recommended "The Outpost," with a starting cost of around \$15,000. This unit is customizable and can be upgraded. It comes with signage.
- Are we opening a can of worms by having the DNR tack how many vehicles use our launch to determine how many parking spaces we should have? We are 1/3 undersize for parking spaces. A sheriff can issue a ticket if someone is parked on the road but not on State Land, only a DNR CO (Conservation Officer). There are no no-parking signs on the road.
- Catalytic converter theft is occurring.

Membership:

- 268 current

Recreation:

- Youth fishing contest was July 16. 26 participants, lots of fish caught a good time was had by all. All fishing was done off boats. A huge bass and a legal pike were caught.

Golf Outing update:

- See you next year

Bass Tournaments:

- Permit information available on the mich.gov website.

Communication:

Newsletter:

- Youth fishing, boat parade, fertilizer rules from Brent, treatment update, out by Mid September. Possible article on up tick in area thefts. Fish planting will be in the president's letter. Leaf disposal, purple loosestrife. Carl, trapping, contact info. Presidents letter. Lake Improvement board.

Website:

- Lake Improvement board update, New by-laws,

Facebook:

- Youth fishing, boat parade photo's

TOWNSHIP REPORT:

- Nothing new to report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Spongy Moth Update: Dave spoke with Neil Swanson, consultant, he concurred that there are less egg masses this year but a fall survey would be appropriate. The assessment of \$100 will be on everyone's winter tax bill.
- By-Laws: Motion to take a vote to finalize the new by-laws. Passed. They will be posted on the website (and have been for review)
- Because the Audit Committee is looking at upgrades to the financial platform, Sandy suggested including the treasurer in the meetings of the Audit preparedness committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Motion to re-elect board members, Randy, Jim, Julia, Mike, Alex, passed
- We have an opening for Lake Mecosta to replace Mark Wrona.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Roger Hockstra And Tom Butcher were guests.
- Was not able to find any information on the Lake Improvement Board on the internet. Questioned whether the Lake Improvement Board has a website. A lot of people are confused as to the difference between the Lake Improvement Board and the Tri-Lakes Association. Is there a reason it is not better publicized, Might be prudent for us to approach the township about better communication and clarification.
- Clarification of Lake Improvement Board: It is made up of 5 members, The Drain Commissioner, County Commissioner, Two Township Representatives and One Riparian Representative. The LIB approves the 5-year plan for management of invasive species in the district and contracts with a consulting firm as well as the applicator.
- Could we add a link to the LIB on the treatment notice page of our newsletter in the spring. Include a link and a statement "If you have questions about lake improvement board in every newsletter."
- Alex asked if The Tri Lakes and Lake Improvement Board could be added to the community link site at Morton Twp.
- Comment about flooding and dams breaking in other areas of Michigan. We had the boards fixed recently. It is the responsibility of Karla Miller, the drain commissioner, to inspect the dam. It is on private property.

DATE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING: September 10, 2022, at the library

ADJOURN