

**Black Lake Association
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2020**

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm at the Grant Township Hall in the outdoor pavilion. Proper social distancing protocol was followed. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board members present included Brett Trepanier, Ron Dulak, Sharon Dulak, Roger Selvig, Cindy Trepanier, Erin McLean, and Dave Turzewski. John Roby and Linda Smith were excused. A total of 16 members were present.

Rules of Meeting

Questions were solicited at the end of each report. Time for public comment was provided at the end of the meeting.

Secretary

The minutes from the July 13 meeting were read. There were no corrections and the minutes were accepted.

Treasurer

The treasurer's report was read and accepted subject to audit.

Membership

Paid membership on July 31 is 400 members. To date there are 427 signed proxies. Additional members are still mailing in their dues. Several beaches are still outstanding as a number of beach reps have felt uncomfortable going door to door.

Fish

Fisherman are reporting catches of pike, walleye, and bass, although the bite is slow. A suggestion was made to start making waves with the DNR to stock Black Lake next year as we will not be getting any fingerlings this year.

Townships

North Allis Township reports that resurfacing of Highway 489 from the State Park to Abbey Lane will begin in August and completed by October 31. It is not known whether the road will be down to one lane or totally closed to traffic.

Invasive Weeds

Sharon Dulak reported that Huron Pines found one small patch of invasive phragmites in with the native phragmites. It appears to them that the phragmites may be hybridizing. They will be doing another survey of the lake this summer looking for purple loosestrife before issuing the final report. It appears that the phragmites will not be treated until next year.

Buoys

Jim Coleman has volunteered to place and retrieve the buoys next year. Brett Trepanier will be in touch with him.

Swimmers Itch

There was additional discussion on the ongoing issue with swimmer's itch. It is believed that the problem could be caused by the large numbers of Canadian geese that have been seen around the lake this year. BLA continues to recommend that people avoid swimming in calm, shallow areas where mergansers and/or geese have recently been seen and at a minimum enter deeper water from the end of a dock or even from a boat.

Alverno Dam

The USGS conducted its study of water flow at various locations in the river using very expensive electronic GPS enabled equipment. The results seem to indicate that the readings obtained by the dam operator using old mechanical equipment have been accurate to within an acceptable margin of error.

Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs)

The USGS has been out doing their sampling again. So far, they have not found any detectable toxins. Under the microscope the samples have been identified as filamentous green algae. The good news is that green algae does not produce toxins. The bad news is that green algae is unsightly and can cause a pungent odor.

Signs of a toxic outbreak include what looks like a teal colored paint spill on the surface and little green hairs in the water. Hopefully the cooler temperatures will keep any blooms at bay this year.

Several members have reported algal blooms at their property. Since the USGS study is looking at the changes of toxin production throughout the summer on a timed schedule, they are not targeting sampling during actual bloom occurrences. If the USGS identifies a bloom during their sampling, they will submit a sample to ELGE.

Please let us know if you see suspicious looking algae around the lake. In addition, suspicious looking algae should be reported to EGLE by calling the Environmental Assistance Center at 1-800-662-9278 or sending an e-mail to AlgaeBloom@Michigan.gov.

Directors

A vote was held and Sharon Dulak, Roger Selvig, and Roger Bergstedt were elected to the board for three-year terms.

New Business

There have been a number of complaints made regarding the reckless use of jet skis on the lake. In one instance a jet ski was driven between a pontoon boat and its passengers who were swimming nearby. Ron Dulak spoke with the Presque Isle and Cheboygan County Sheriff's offices about the issue. They indicated that unless they directly witness the violation that there is little they can do. In the meantime, if you can identify the riders or watercraft that is breaking the law you can call the Sheriff's Office in your county and report the occurrence. They may be able to pay a friendly visit to the perpetrators and let them know that a complaint has been filed. The number for the Cheboygan County Sheriff Office is 231-627-8888.

Ron also provided an update on the DNR public boat ramp project. The ramp is now open. After completion of an environmental study, more demolition will occur. Then the DNR will obtain funds for the design of any new buildings. Expect to see public meetings next year and completion of the project in two to three years.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 14 at 7:00 pm at the Grant Township Hall. The pavilion will be used if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Turzewski