

Christmas Lake Homeowner's Association

Minutes of Board Meeting

Meeting date: November 5, 2019

Members present:	Paul Cossette	Gregg Elliott	Todd Erickson
	Harley Feldman	Tom Kelly	Roger Norberg
	Aaron Peterson	Mary Shaw	Joe Shneider

Members absent: Steve Midthun Doug Punke

- The meeting was called to order by President Todd Erickson at 7:05 at The Commons in Excelsior.
- The published agenda is attached below.
- There were no minutes to approve.
- Board Meetings
 - We agreed to have 3 Board Meetings per year in April, September, and January/February
 - Todd will send out a Doodle poll to select dates for the meetings
 - The target date for the 2020 Annual Meeting is May 20
- Standing Committees of the Board
 - The following committees were established. Board members were asked to involve non-board members on the committees to get more people on the lake involved and to get more done.
 - Events Committee
 - Gregg Elliott and Harley Feldman to co-chair
 - The committee will decide the Fourth of July theme without requiring Board approval, and will be announced at the Annual Meeting
 - Dock and Lift Put-in/Take-Out Committee
 - Roger Norberg to chair and Paul Cossette to assist
 - Onboarding Committee
 - Anne and Patrick Gavin to chair
 - Mary Shaw has offered to be on the committee
 - AIS Committee
 - Joe Shneider to chair
 - Todd Erickson will be on the committee
 - Paul Cossette will work on the weevil project when needed
 - Membership Committee
 - Paul Cossette and Joe Shneider to lead the first initiative to go door to door to talk to non-paying lake residents
 - 26% percent of lake residents do not contribute to our organization
- Fun Run Donation

- Approximately \$7,300 is available for donation from the 2018 and 2019 Fun Run events.
- ChadTough (Jen Larson) and Treehouse (Rhondi Meiusi) were the two suggestions from our residents
- Paul Cossette moved to split the moneys from the last two year's Fun Runs between these two child and teen-based charities. Mary Shaw seconded the motion. **Passed Unanimously**
- Discussion of the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates contribution
 - Prior Board motions approved annually renewing our membership until the Board decides to stop the contribution
 - Joe Shneider commented on the value MLR's lobbying provides to lakes around the state.
 - No action was required and the CLHA contribution will be sent to MLR
- Insurance update
 - Todd Erickson reviewed our two policies: Directors & Officers insurance and Property/Liability coverage
 - Doubling the coverage of our Property/Liability policy from \$1 million to \$2 million would add only \$67 to our current \$1,094 annual premium
 - Roger Norberg moved to increase the Liability Coverage to \$2 million with a \$67 premium increase. Mary Shaw seconded the motion. **Passed Unanimously**
- Dock and Lift Put-in/Take-Out update
 - Roger Norberg commented that as usual, challenges came our way, but the work is getting done successfully.
 - Roger is looking for one or two more providers to have a deeper bench to deal with surprises.
 - 50 residents are using the program now
- Goose Roundup
 - No geese were found nor rounded up when the service came to the lake, yet they were clearly on the lake. We discussed having homeowners call/text a "Geese hotline" that we would set up to know where they are being found to aid in the annual roundup.
 - Mary Shaw moved that we continue the Goose Roundup in 2020. Gregg Elliott seconded the motion. **Passed Unanimously**
- AIS Update
 - Joe Shneider provided an update on our AIS program for 2019 including some of the numbers drawn from our season long AIS inspections at the landing. Notably 12 boats presenting at Christmas Lake had last been in lakes with starry stonewort and 46 required decontamination under Minn state standards. He also briefed the Board on some relevant research being done at the University of Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC).
 - Joe Shneider also summarized the state of AIS spread in Minnesota. Zebra mussels continue to be the most significant AIS both for the scope and speed of its spread and the damage to infected waters. Starry Stonewort is now in Medicine Lake. It is transferred by boats and is a real threat to other metro lakes including Christmas Lake. Joe mentioned that Lake Koronis believes it will spend \$250,000/year for the foreseeable future to control starry stonewort.
 - Paul Cossette suggested we have a 1-page summary of the AIS program results for communication to non-paying members. as well as paying members. It

should include the statewide AIS growth curves and also our pioneering efforts that are of value to Christmas Lake and beyond.

- There was interest in getting more AIS signage at the landing and the inspectors could distribute cards reminding boaters of the state law to pull their drain plugs before getting on the road. There was also interest in possibly talking with the South Lake Police about the ability to enforce AIS and parking issues at the landing.
- Joe agreed to ask Steve McComas to provide an estimate for a lake vegetation survey and a starry stonewort search. Waterfront Restoration has also been asked for a bid.
- Paul Cossette updated the Board on the weevil project.
 - It was significantly harder than last year and less productive as good Eurasian watermilfoil was hard to find.
 - This likely is our last year of weevil treatments for the foreseeable future.
 - Paul noted that Dr. Sallie Sheldon suggested the EWM may experience a bounce back next as the weevils may die off a bit.
- SafeWakes.org
 - Todd updated the Board on this group that has formed in Minnesota to address the issue of enhanced wakes and their impact on shoreline erosion, water turbidity, and safety.
 - There are laws on the books, but enforcement is non-existent.
 - Some residents from Lotus Lake started the group as the problem there is severe given the long narrow nature of that lake
 - Roger Norberg and Joe Shneider are participating with the group. Steve Midthun is also available to participate.
- Finance and Budgeting
 - Harley Feldman provided an income and expense statement as of November 1, 2019. (Note: as per our custom, the financial documents are not attached but are available for distribution to the Board or any homeowner upon request.)
 - The projected 2020 dues were modeled using a few variables, but the biggest concern is a decrease or elimination of matching funding from the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Over the last several years they have been phasing out their AIS prevention support. The MCWD provided \$16,000 in 2019, so the impact would be substantial. The Association had also hoped that by now the DNR would be approving the use of regional inspections sites. Joe Shneider reported that we won't see anything like this in the next year given the purported failure of the Wright County regional inspection plan.
 - Action steps discussed include:
 - Pushing for higher contributions from Hennepin County and the City of Shorewood, and first-time contributions from Carver County and the City of Chanhassen (Todd Erickson and Joe Shneider will drive this)
 - Trying to get a higher percentage of non-paying homeowners to become paying members (as discussed above)
 - We do not want to ask the homeowners to pay higher dues until we have exhausted the options with the aforementioned local government units.
 - Mary Shaw suggested the 1-page AIS results summary should be sent to all homeowners so they can see tangible results from their dues

- This would help reinforce the value of their dues and retain existing paying members.
 - The newly formed, but as yet unfunded Christmas Lake Endowment fund was discussed as a vehicle to provide some relief for rising dues to cover future AIS prevention bills.
- Todd Erickson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mary Shaw seconded the motion. **Passed Unanimously**
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully submitted by:
Joe Shneider

AGENDA

Christmas Lake Homeowners' Association Board of Directors Meeting

5 November 2019

7:00 pm @ The Commons, Excelsior

1. Board Meetings – Continue to hold on an ad hoc basis, or set regular meetings – e.g. 3x yr plus annual meeting of members?
2. Potential Committees of the Board
 - a. Events
 - b. Dock and Lift Service Provider Management – led by Roger
 - c. Onboarding New Residents – Anne and Patrick Gavin, Roger
 - d. AIS – led by Joe
 - e. Others, e.g. safety, membership?
3. Memorial Day Fun Run Donation
 - a. \$7300 from last two events
 - b. Donation suggestions
 - i. Minnetonka TreeHouse. This group comes alongside troubled youth in our community. See <https://treehousehope.org>. Suggested by Rhondi Meiusi.
 - ii. ChadTough – focusing on kids with brain cancer. See www.chadtough.org Suggested by Jen Larson.
4. Insurance renewals – update
 - a. D&O, General Liability and Property
 - b. Opportunity to double CGL limits to \$2 million for \$67/yr in additional premium
5. Managed dock and lift services - Update by Roger
6. Geese collection – update and do we continue in 2020?
7. AIS – Joe
 - a. General update on the state of AIS control efforts around MN and at the UofM's Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC)
 - b. Statistics from watercraft launching during the 2019 boating season
 - c. Update on Weevil project and state of EWM infestation
 - d. Starry Stonewort and other threatening AIS
 - e. The future of regional inspection sites
8. Proposal for an Annual Biodiversity Survey of the Lake - Joe
 - a. Why and estimated cost
 - b. By whom