

# Bills Lake Association Meeting

**May 29, 2021**

- 1. Call to Order:** 10:00 AM followed by Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Introduction of Association board members:** Brian Kersey/Pres., Tanis Rhodea/VP, Sherry Moline/Sec., Lynda Fox/Treas., Ken Dood/Trustee, Dave Gabrielse/Trustee, Jim Hribal/Trustee

**Introduction of New Residents:** Jim and Sara Donkersloot/Blackhawk Zone, Lucas Howard/Blackhawk Zone, JR VanderWal/Geronimo I Zone

### 3. Housekeeping Matters:

- Annual association dues remain \$20. Flares \$3/ea.
- Contact Ed Waits if new resident to be included 2021 Bills Lake Directory. Hard copies of directory upon request.
- Zone Reps. pick up flares from Sherry Moline after meeting.

- 4. Croton Township Update:** Morgan Heinzman/Croton Twp. Supervisor: Croton Township currently has the most new construction in Newaygo County.

- 5. Camp Trotter:** Bob Benderman/State Director for Camp Trotter has resigned. Richard Route gave update: stated the camp will be closed to children this season due to COVID-19. Other events (Boy Scouts, golf outing, training session) will be taking place at the camp during the summer months. There is a possibility to rent grounds/facilities with restrictions. Contact: John Blackstone (734)637-9286.

Bills Lake Association thanks Richard Route/Camp Trotter for the mowing of the association grounds each summer.

### 6. 2021 Calendar:

- Lake wide Garage Sales June 11-12
- Association Meeting June 26
- Fourth of July Activities July 3 (rain date July 4)
- DNR/MSU Mobile Boat Wash August 6 7AM-2PM
- Association Meeting September 4

- 7. Treasurer Report:** by Lynda Fox: end of 2020 \$4,800.94 in account. Cash balance is up from previous year. Currently after paying flare invoice have \$2,566.00 in account.

Breakdown of dues paid by zone:

- |             |               |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| • Apache    | 88%           | Fox         | 73%           |
| • Blackhawk | 56%           | Geronimo I  | 54%           |
| • Cherokee  | 100%          | Geronimo II | 37%           |
| • Dakota    | 70% (recheck) | Hiawatha    | 71%           |
| • Erie      | 100%          | Iroquois    | 57% (recheck) |

- 8. Insurance Update:** by Lynda Fox: 2018 insurance coverage was increased from \$300,000 to \$500,000. The insurance covers: association grounds/buildings and individuals on association grounds. Insurance does not cover: lake, boat races (insurance company recommends getting signed waivers), boat launch (covered by State of Michigan/DNR).
- 9. PWC Time Trials/Fourth of July:** The board passed a vote and PWC time trials will not be a part of 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities due to concerns for safety on the lake during the busiest weekend of the year and insurance coverage. Sailboat, kayak, SUP, paddleboat and canoe races will take place in 2021 as they are non-motorized.

## **10. Committee Updates:**

### **(a) Capital Improvement Committee:**

**Bills Lake Pathway:** by Brian Kersey: approx. \$600,000 is the stand alone amount if the pathway is done separate from road plan by Newaygo County. Therefore, the pathway is in the plan to coordinate with Newaygo County roadwork of Pear, 86<sup>th</sup> and 92<sup>nd</sup>

### **(b) Sustainability Committee:**

**Water Testing:** by Martha Gabrielse: Mid-May the Seechi Disk reading was 18 ½' (the deeper the feet, the better). Bills Lake is currently chemical free in treating weed control, algae, clarity, etc. In efforts to be proactive, the DNR has put Bills Lake on the "Lakes to Watch" list. We definitely want to keep Bills Lake chemical/treatment free. During the end of July-early August, the DNR will be having a scuba diver come to check the lake for problematic invasive species (ESP: European Frog-bit, aquatic plant-on watch list, prohibited in Michigan.)

**Boat Launch Signs/Restrictions:** by Tanis Rhodea: Bills Lake public access is owned by the State of Michigan/DNR. The public access on the lake has been designated as a boat launch only with NO SWIMMING or WADING. Lance Haines/DNR Newaygo office (231)856-4452, has been contacted regarding the damaged regulations sign. He is working on getting a new billboard in replacement, along with new signs for the recreational passport required to use the boat launch. Lance Haines is the contact to communicate with regards to swimmers, parties, after use hours, etc. Sherry Moline will post reminders of boat launch regulations on the association Face Book page.

- 11. Bills Lake History:** Ed Waits has done extensive research and all findings can be found on [billslake.net](http://billslake.net) website.
- 12. Trash Service:** by Sherry Moline: At least three different trash companies are servicing the Bills Lake area on three different days. There is a concern for safety and increased traffic of heavy equipment on county and private lake roads. SWS and Republic Services are currently bidding on a reduced group/association rate for three years for lake residents.
- 13. Fish Planting:** by Dan Phillips: Looking for the association to take an interest in investing in the lake and the low population of perch. Planting 1,400 4-5" perch=\$2,000 with

following year, planting 700 perch. Board requesting to contact DNR for more information especially regarding the effects of pike and the fish they feed on.

**14. Board Elections:** At the Labor Day association meeting, board positions to fill the president, secretary and one trustee will be open. Interested individuals are encouraged to consider filling these positions.

**15. New Business:** The association has approved \$150 for Ed Waits to print hard copies of the 2021 directory.

**16. Adjournment:** 11:18 AM

**Future Meeting Agenda Items:** If you would like an item added to the agenda of future meetings, please email Brian Kersey: [bkersey@bodmanlaw.com](mailto:bkersey@bodmanlaw.com).

Recorded and Respectfully Submitted by,  
Sherry Moline, Bills Lake Association Secretary