Sugar Lake Association Board Meeting

Thursday May 20, 2021 – 6:30 to 8:30 PM

 1. Call to order – Keith Theisen

 2. Roll Call – Secretary Todd Jackson

In Attendance: Steve Kowalczyk, Mike Emerson, Mark Ertl, Dan Salfer, Mark Kraemer, Keith Theisen, Rob Gusaas, Tom Nimmo, Kim Hanson, Trudy Richter, Todd Jackson, Diane Hall, Lisa Salfer and Jim Printup

Not in attendance: Mark Snyder, Kevin Welle,

• Motion to approve minutes of April Meeting – Motion made by Rob Gusaas and seconded by Mike Emerson.

3. Chairman’s Report – Keith Theisen

Chairman Theisen reported that Vice Chair Nick Hatfield had resigned from SLA board due to family reasons. He also reported that Don Peterson had agreed to serve out Nick’s remaining time on the board and become the vice chairman

Mike made a motion to nominate Don as a board member. Seconded by Diane. Motion carried.

Trudy made a motion to nominate Don to position as vice chairman of the board. Seconded by Mike. Motion carried.

Chairman Theisen reported that we will have full membership meetings in June and August as required by our by-laws for the purpose of canvassing new board members (June) and electing new board members (August).

Trudy moved to move the membership meetings from Saturday to Thursday evening immediately after the board meetings. Seconded by Rob. Motion carried.

Chairman Theisen then noted the intended to use electronic voting again for board elections as we had record participation last year by using electronic voting. General feeling of the board was this was a good idea.

4. Treasurer’s Report – Tom Nimmo reported that the SLA’s 3 funds assets totaled $270,273 down slightly from last month and several large bills had been paid for. He also noted that $700 had been received in honor of former board member Craig Johnson.

5. Old / New Business and Open Mic

A. Diane Hall along with several of her neighbors attended the meeting to inform the board about the possibility of them loosing their access to the lake. They live across the street from the lake on Hoyer Avenue and have access to the lake through a 20 ft wide strip of land that was set up by the owners of Rutledge Sugar Lake Park in 1921 for public use. No public records show who owns the property and neither Wright Country nor Corinna township collect property taxes on it or own it. People living on Hoyer have maintained and used the property for decades. Newer owners of the home on one side of the property have filed a petition with Corinna township to transfer ½ of the property to them and ½ of the strip to the cabin on the other side of the access strip. This would deny the group from access to the lake. The board felt there was nothing it could do as it doesn’t control the property and recommended they hire a real estate attorney if they wanted to fight it.

B. North Landing Safety Concerns – Chairman Theisen met with two DNR officials at the landing. The DNR did some immediate repairs on the holes at the landing and plan to bring in some asphalt to make a more permanent repair. He also reported that long term they intend to change the grade of the road off the highway. They do not intend to close the landing.

 C. South Landing CD3 Cleaning Station – Chairman Theisen met with the DNR and Wight Country Soil and Water at the landing. It was noted the sight isn’t ideally set up for the CD3 machine but there is a spot people have made into a temporary parking spot that could work but would need to remove some trees. Plan to meet again with the group along with a representative from the CD3 company. Also noted that our cost would likely go up due to tree removal. If DNR eventually approves we will need to revisit our motion on cost.

D. Bylaw Updates – Chairman Theisen reported that he had worked with Trudy Richter and Todd Jackson to review our by-laws with the idea to update them to:

 • Modernize – clarify electronic voting / virtual meetings

• Add flexibility - to Meeting times / nominations & voting process

• Simplify / Clarify

He then reviewed with the board the articles that were changed and what we were changing. He also noted that the full membership will need to vote on the changes in August.

Rob made a motion to approve the changes to the by-laws as presented. Seconded by Jim. Motion carried.

E. Board Openings – Chairman Theisen reported we will need to elect 7 new board members in August. Plan to notify members in the May newsletter.

F. Starry Stonewort Rapid Response – Chairman Theisen noted that he had sent out the board’s emergency response plan for members to familiarize themselves with. SLA hires Bluewater Science to look for the weed each month. We know that attacking the week very quickly is very important to control/eliminate it from the lake if it is ever found and the response is likely to cost six figures.

G. Trudy and Kim noted that there is a new dock on Bell Point and people should be careful going around the point to not get to close to it.

6. Review 2021 Calendar of Events / Checklist of tasks

* Virtual Fishing Fun Event Saturday, June 26 (8 am to noon) Kevin Welle and Keith Theisen are chairing.
* Boat Parade Saturday, July 10 (3 to 4 pm). Jan Tift and Kim Hanson are co-chairing.
* are chairing.
* Scramble Golf Event Saturday, July 31 Southbrook Golf Course (1 pm Shotgun Start) Greg Selle is chairing.
* Picnic Saturday, August 7 Rachel Property (Noon to 3) New Sugar Lake Apparel will be available at the picnic this year. Each board member should secure an item for the raffle at the picnic. Jan Tift and Sally Quinn Phenow are chairing.
* Light Up the Lake, Saturday, September 4

7. Committee Reports

Water Quality/AIS

• Buoys were deployed around the lake and there will be an article in May’s newsletter highlighting where they are and why they are put there.

• Treatments Areas – Curly pondweed was treated for around the lake on April 14th. The treatment area was a bit bigger than last year. A few members have indicated they have curly pondweed that wasn’t treated however it must be treated very early in the season.

 • Water Quality Statistics – Dan Erdmann – no report

Membership

• Updates/ Keith May / Mailing Raffle

• Membership Dues – Due by June 1 (60 days membership lapses)

• Update Member Directory – Need to lock down member addresses by the end of June to get updated directory.

* Print Directory: / Print Scott Radtke Family
* An electronic Directory PDF option will be available to members upon request
* Advertising sales – Ron Elsner has had good success selling 13 adds that will appear in our newsletter, Facebook page and in directory

Communications

• Newsletter – Don Peterson – Newsletter mostly set need a front-page story picture. Idea to do something with loons.

8. Motion to Adjourn made by Mike and seconded by Rob – Motion carried.