

Bills Lake Association
Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2010

After leading a chilled but enthusiastic group of a dozen or so attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation, the meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by Dan Coby, our Association President.

Dan asked if there were any Birthdays or Anniversaries that we might wish to note. Birthdays included Ardi Coby (Sep 13) and Tery Schuiteman (Sep 15). The DeJongs celebrate an Anniversary on Sep 11.

No new residents were introduced, noted, reported or otherwise gossiped about.

Minutes of the June 2010 meeting were approved. It was also noted that the minutes are available on the web.

Treasurer's report was presented by our Treasurer, Jerry Elenbaas. Jerry reported a total bank balance of \$8,364.66. All bills are paid and up to date. Question was asked re: tax bill, and Jerry responded that taxes are paid and noted they are less than \$200. Question was asked re: are we all square with the \$1,000 donation made to the Camp, and Jerry responded that the donation has been made and acknowledged as received by Camp Trotter management. Question was asked re: did we remain with our Insurance Company or did we move the business elsewhere, and Jerry responded that we remained with the same Insurance Company and our premium is \$388 per year. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Ed Waits reminded everyone that no Labor Day Newsletter was published, as there was no new material.

Ron Madsen then addressed the group regarding some findings and information he had obtained regarding lake water levels, as a follow up to the discussion in our previous meeting. He noted that the Drain Commissioner has had calls from every lake in Newaygo County. We've had low rain levels and high evaporation. Ron provided a very good summary of just what it takes to have an official study done of lake water levels in order to estimate the normal level of the lake:

- It's a very cumbersome and expensive process (estimate \$8-10,000 to do preliminary engineering report, for which every owner will be assessed)
- Can only begin if we get the signed acknowledgement of 100% of lake property owners (this includes all property owners both on the lakeshore + those up to 500 feet off the lake) and a 2/3 approval
- No guarantee of action – the Drain Commissioner explained to Ron that the Commissioners need to vote on any recommendations, and their vote is no guarantee of action.
- Drain Commissioner's recommendation is that we watch for the next year and see.

Several comments and observations were shared from Association members:

- There was once a dam and now it is gone. We would have to go through the above process in order to place a dam. It was mused that perhaps the Road Commission removed the dam when they worked near that site.
- The inlet on Tannewitz is fine – it has been checked out by both the Drain Commission and the Road Commission
- *Grand Rapids Press* article was referenced re: low lake levels

Fish Planting: Jerry Elenbaas had offered to check out fish stocking/planting for Bills Lake. He received no calls from any Association Members, so since the matter did not have urgency, no action was taken. Jerry Deschaine noted that in any case, we should always be concerned re: introduction of disease via fish stocking. Jerry Elenbaas reiterated that we would only authorize planting of fish from a DNR approved farm (such as Stone Creek, spoken of in our previous meeting).

It was noted that pike are great to eat – at any size!

Old Business:

Please do not feed the swan. We all know that Arnold is feeling blue...

New Business:

Mic Jurgens had a bear sighting near the road by the public launch.

Holly Sosnowski made a very good comment that we should post some form of signage regarding the wildlife that live on the lake – especially to give notice and information to visitors who access the lake via the public access, etc. Martha Gabrielse will research this with the DNR and also extensions at MSU re: someone to help us with proper verbiage and facts to post.

Question was asked, “Will Amish Market Days continue?” This was their first year, and we didn’t see the volume of people that we would have hoped. We leave this to Mary and Samuel Miller.

A Slate to fill Board positions that come open for the 2011 year was then presented and approved: Martha Gabrielse as Secretary, Ron Madsen to re-up his Trustee position, and Dan Coby to again serve as our fearless leader and President.

50/50 Drawing was held. Your Scribe did not win, nor did she note who took home the big cash prize.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Dan Coby dismissed everyone with wishes for a wonderful Fall and Winter. We all look forward to coming together again on May 28, 2011 (Memorial Day Weekend).

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Gabrielse, Secretary