

Horsehead Lake Association
Annual Meeting
August 10, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Gary Swier.

Roll call was taken. Directors present were Gary Swier, Jim Osbourn, Mike Vagnetti, Paul Smith, Bob McCauley, Bob Forche, Dom Theodore, Fred Kuebler, Bud Uschuk, Dick Tice, and Barb Yount.

Absent and excused were Tony Fleszar, Dean Cullimore, and Gary Lough.

There were 33 guests present.

President Gary Swier introduced Officer Bob Burgess from the Mecosta County Sheriffs Department Marine Patrol. Officer Burgess stated that the budget was cut from \$17,500 last year to \$10,200 this year. He also said the participants taking the boater safety course at the park has declined because more have been taking it on line. They patrolled the lake 16 hours, had 45 contacts, and issued 9 warnings. He informed us that in order to operate a boat now, anyone 16 yrs. or born on or before 7-1-1996 must carry their boater safety certificate with them. He reviewed the different types of life vests and said that children under 6 on PWC's must wear a type 1 or 2 and children 6-12 can wear a type 1, 2, or 3. On a boat if they are over 6 they do not have to have a life jacket on. There was much confusion from everyone regarding the perceived "no wake" law. Officer Burgess made it clear that state law, including Horsehead Lake, states no high speed boating meaning that boats cannot be on plane. Many lake residents would rather have a no wake law. Gary agreed to address this with the township.

Matt McCall from Aquatic Nuisance Control was introduced. He reported the lake was surveyed in May and on May 20 they treated 8 acres, stating this was early but they wanted to get the high traffic areas done. On June 5th they treated 23 acres, and on July 22nd 2 more acres were treated. He said our lake looked good and they will be back in 2 weeks to survey it. Purple Loosestrife was a concern to some of the guests. Matt suggested you eradicate it if on your property by pulling it out from the roots, though not any easy task. Kathy Battle suggested getting a work group together on weekends and help neighbors get it done who cannot do it themselves.

Bob McCauley reported that as of May 3rd there was \$70,442 in the special tax assessment account, and the cost of this year's treatment was approximately \$18,000. This assessment is a 10 year set up to be reevaluated at 5years.

Jackie Fitzgerald, Mecosta Co. Drain Commissioner was introduced. Jackie presented several pictures of our new dam along with pictures of the downstream beaver dam. These pictures were all taken on August 7, 2013. As a matter of note Jackie indicated that 4 beavers had been trapped from the beaver dam area and that all beaver activity appears to have ceased. Much discussion was held related to the lake level and how it should be managed. Jackie's position is that the level is mandated by law and that she is obligated to manage the lakes level as the law is written. Any changes to this would require changes in the law. There were concerns from the membership related to accuracy of the gauge used to monitor the lakes level. Jackie assured everyone that the gauge had been calibrated by engineers and that it was accurate. It was suggested that the HLA board retake responsibility for controlling

the lakes level. This is again a county law that mandates the drain commissioner has control. Gary stated that he would follow up with the county commissioners to see if the possibility of a board member assisting with control of the lake level is feasible.

The books were audited by Bob Forche for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. All was in order.

The July 13, 2013 minutes will be deferred until the next meeting.

The Treasurers Report was given. Motion to accept made by Paul Smith and seconded by Bud Uschuk. Motion carried.

Bob McCauley gave the membership report. As of today there are 266 members, up 30 from last month. At this time last year there were 259 members.

Bub Uschuk gave the fish report. At this time there is \$1609 in the fish fund. Again this year we will be planting walleye in the lake.

Barb Yount gave the results of the Poker Run and the Boat Parade. The Poker Run was held August 3rd. A total of 140 hands were sold, down from last year, but we were still able to raise \$917 for the fish fund thanks to the winners of the Poker Run and the 50/50 drawing donating most of their winnings back. Winning hand went to Nick Vaneck, 2nd went to Tony Fleszar III, and 3rd to Many Malberg. The Poker run raised \$575 and the 50/50 raised \$342. The Boat Parade winners were

1st place-The Navarre Family-Boat#8-Beach Party

2nd place-The Wing Family-Boat #3-Duck Dynasty

3rd place-The Devenbaugh Family-Boat #4-Jerry's Little Firecrackers

There were 8 entries this year and it was asked how can we get more boats involved and Terry Swier suggested changing the time from 6:00pm to early afternoon. We agreed to discuss this.

Carol Wilson had the results of the Young Angler's Fishing Contest. There were 50 participants ages 3-15 this year. A new category was added this year for heaviest fish. All the winners received Meijer gift cards and all participants received goodie bags. Special thanks to the Wilson family for donating their time and money to keep this going in memory of Grandpa Jim.

A motion was made to nominate Jerry Devenbaugh to the Board to fill the vacancy of Bill Conarton by Barb Yount, seconded by Dom Theodore. Motion carried. Welcome Jerry.

Regarding the terms of the following Directors that will expire this year, Bob Forche, Tony Fleszar, Gary Lough, Dick Tice, and Paul Smith there will be a ballot sent out in September to members to vote. Fred Kuebler nominated Barb Dunlop for a Board position to be added to the ballot. All interested nominees have to have their names in by August 28th. There will be 5 positions to fill.

Thank you to all the guests that came to the Annual Meeting to share their interests and concerns for our lake.

Gary Swier, President

Submitted by Barb Yount