

# HACKERT LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## May 2, 2013

Meeting held at the home of Ed Sanders.

Those in attendance: Ed Sanders, Sandi Steckel, Lou McCarthy, Bob Haupt, John Ochs, Ed McCarthy, Rick Ruba

Meeting convened at 6:47 pm.

Ed Sanders presented the Agenda (see attached).

Secretary, Lou McCarthy, read the minutes of the Annual Meeting of July 21, 2012 (submitted by former Secretary, Linda Ochs). It was moved (Sandi Steckel) and seconded (Bob Haupt) that the minutes be accepted as read. Motion carried.

Bob Haupt stated that he, as a member of the Welcoming Committee, had visited several new members since the Annual Meeting in July. He attempted to visit Wahls last Fall, but no one was home. He made visits to Sue & Paul Dykman and Ron & Sue Bailey and gave each couple a Hackert Lake Sign.

Treasurer, Sandi Steckel, submitted a treasurer's report (see attached) and noted a treasury balance of \$8219.35, with a paid membership of 63. A motion was made by Bob Haupt to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Motion seconded by Lou McCarthy. Motion carried.

Ed Sanders presented a letter received from member, John Combest, suggesting that Hackert Lake Association submit a letter to Safe Harbor Credit Union in Ludington requesting that members of Hackert Lake Association be eligible to become members of Safe Harbor Credit Union. After some discussion, it was decided that it is not the purpose of the Association to interfere with private homeowners' issues that do not directly affect the lake. However, Ed Sanders did agree to contact Linda Hartley at Safe Harbor Credit Union to clarify the need for such a letter in order for HLA members to belong the credit union.

John Ochs reported that Mike McKinney at West Shore Community College (WSCC) will again be asking to do his annual sampling of Hackert Lake (from May through September) and do a water study, as has been done in past years. This study has been paid for by the Lake Improvement Board (LIB) in the past and it is assumed that McKinney will request that the LIB finance this year's assessment. The most recent report stated that all looks good with the lake and it is "healthy." While WSCC would probably not be able to address "unhealthy" aspects of the lake, the Board agreed that it is reassuring to know that, generally speaking, our lake is in good shape. There is also the advantage of "early warning" if issues arise that need to be addressed. John Ochs has been Mike McKinney's contact in recent years and is willing to continue as such. Sandi Steckel asked about the current state of LIB funds and wondered if a new tax assessment would have to be done if more money was required for continued analysis of the lake. Bob Haupt and John Ochs agreed that a new assessment would, indeed, be necessary if current funds were not sufficient to cover the cost.

The Hackert Lake website is up and running. Sandi Steckel has done a great job of posting pictures of Hackert Lake over the years. With a few revisions and updates, the website should serve the HLA well and be less expensive than previous websites.

Sandi Steckel reiterated that there are currently 63 HLA members, out of approximately 112 property owners. She stated that just above 50% is about average.

On the issue of weed control:

- Ed McCarthy asked what happens to the weevil population during the winter months. John Ochs said that some weevils actually stay in the lake while others hibernate on the shoreline.
- John Ochs stated that EnviroScience will do a full aquatic survey this summer as the culmination of the five-year weevil process. There will be a final report and recommendations for the future.
- Ed Sanders agreed to be the new contact for EnviroScience, relieving John Ochs, who has served in that capacity over recent years.
- Luke Britten of A&T Service, LLC, an Aquatic Weed and Algae Control Company, recently distributed information to residents of Hackert Lake regarding chemical weed control. (See attached)
- Ed McCarthy said that another company, run by Derrick Brookshire (810-621-5404), provides Aquatic Nuisance Plant Control at a much less expensive rate (.0315 cents per square foot if 10 or more residents request the service).
- Ed Sanders and the rest of the board agreed that if Luke Britton succeeds in generating customers for his service and obtains the necessary permits, there is nothing HLA can do to prevent the treatments.
- Lou McCarthy suggested that informing the neighbors about Brookshire's less expensive option might be beneficial.
- It was mentioned that, with the higher lake level this year, weeds might not be as great a problem.

Other Business:

- There was discussion about the annual meeting in July. Due to the lack of attendance at past meetings, the board discussed other options such as an "online" or "e-mail" meeting. Lou McCarthy asked if the meeting had to be held at the Township Hall. She suggested, instead, having an evening "potluck" meeting at a private residence on the lake. McCarthys volunteered their house for the 2014 meeting in July. (Date to be determined.) There will be a notice posted on the website and reminder emails and, most likely, postcards will be sent.
- Bob Haupt asked that at the next Amber Township Board meeting a request be made to establish two ordinances, one limiting the number of camper-trailers on any given Hackert Lake property and the other limiting the number of dogs that can be owned by a Hackert Lake property owner. Bob volunteered to go to the next Township Board Meeting.
- John Ochs stated that the Amber Township Board has never officially recognized Rick Ruba as the HLA representative to the Lake Improvement Board. That oversight should be corrected as soon as possible.

Lou McCarthy asked how often a newsletter should be sent to the members. It was agreed that, generally speaking, once or twice a year is sufficient. The newsletter is usually sent out early in the year and reminds members about their annual HLA dues.

A motion was made by Lou McCarthy to get Sandi Steckel, as HLA Treasurer, an upgraded computer. She has been using her own computer for maintaining a database of members and property owners, as well as posting and updating pictures on the website and it is no longer compatible with new technology. Bob Haupt seconded the motion. Motion carried. Lou and Sandi will look into options/prices.

The board discussed the possibility of getting "HLA member" stickers for cars, campers, etc. Ed Sanders suggested talking with Nick Tykoski and/or Brian Maccomb.

As there are no candidates for President of the Hackert Lake Association at this time, Ed Sanders will continue to serve as "acting President."

Next Meeting: The Annual Meeting at McCarthy's in July. Suggested dates were Friday, July 12th from 6-8 pm, with a "rain date" of July 19th. Ed Sanders will be in touch with McCarthys to finalize details.

Ed McCarthy motioned to adjourn. Bob Haupt seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lou McCarthy, Secretary