

BLUE SPRING LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Informational Meeting
May 25, 2019
Middle School Gym



Meeting Minutes

9:05 A.M. Call to Order - Jim Hochman

Welcome and Introductions – Jim Hochman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. Jim then introduced the Board Members in attendance (Blaine Poulson was not present) and the Lake District staff in attendance (Jim Olson arrived later and Lupe Medina was not present). Jim asked for a moment of silence for Lake District residents who are recently deceased, including:

Russell Krueger

Richard R. “Dick” Triebold, 86, passed on November 21, 2018

Betty Kloplic, 89, passed on March 16, 2019

Louis A. Whitney, 92, passed on April 29, 2019.

9:07 A.M Independence Day plans – Jim Hochman presented the following as listed in the agenda:

Friday July 5th will be the date for the ski show.

Saturday July 6th will be the date for the parade and fireworks.

Saturday July 6th the Ski Club will announce the 50 50 raffle winner after the trophies are awarded.

Sunday July 7th will be the rain date for the fireworks.

Larry Larson will organize the Independence Day activities.

Staging and ending locations will be the same as last year (Triangle to the Kramer property).

Jim Hochman will be the announcer for the trophy winners.

Steve Marcus will provide and set up the sound system.

Volunteers are needed to judge the parade entries. Please let Larry know if you are available.

9:10 A. M. State of the Lake Report – Jim Hochman

Ski Club special hours for practice – Jim mentioned the ski club has practice hours 5 to 7 PM on Monday in addition to the Saturday morning 10 to 11 AM practice time.

Boat Launch Fee – Jim asked if everyone had noticed the red lock box at the landing and stated that we began collecting boat launch fees at the beginning of May this year. We’ve collected over \$400 so far during the month of May. Thanks to Dick Schauer for leading the effort to implement the launch fee.

Website – Diane Knauer reported usage statistics for the website. There are 113 accounts and 181 actual members currently registered. The busiest pages being viewed are Announcements and News, Classified Ads, and Useful Links. Diane mentioned the kinds of Announcements that have been published on the website and encouraged everyone to check it regularly. She also reminded everyone to remove Classified Ads when they were no longer needed. If they are not removed, Diane will remove them after 60 days to keep the site clean and up to date. Jim Hochman thanked Jim Hannes for setting up the site and Diane for doing a great job of monitoring it and keeping it current.

9:15 A. M. Sewer report – Greg Twelmeyer stated that we’ve had increased flow through the sewer system because of the snow melt-off and heavy rains. He anticipates summer usage will be normal.

Televising and smoke test – Greg said we smoke tested the entire system in September, and identified broken intake valves as a problem leading to increased flow through the system. All but one of the broken intakes have been fixed. We also televised the entire system and have received a quote to

repair breaks in the system where water is seeping in. Greg said there was one property that experienced a broken pipe this winter, and it was his.

9:17 A.M. Dam report – Jim Olson was not in attendance, so Jim Hochman gave the report in his absence. He mentioned that Jim Olson was getting the area around the dam cleaned up in anticipation of a DNR inspection this summer. Dick Natrop added that the water level was up for a little while this spring because of a sludge build-up that blocked the outflow over the dam. Jim Olson cleaned it out and now it's back to normal. Jim Hochman thanked Jim Olson for doing a great job as our dam keeper.

9:18 A.M. Operations report – Dick Natrop

Compost Site – Dick mentioned that operations at the compost site were going well. He thanked everyone for their cooperation in not bringing concrete etc. to the Compost Site. He said we generate more compost than lake residents are using, so we found a farmer who has taken our surplus and will take more whenever we have it. Dick asked residents to watch for fishing line in the compost because it causes problems with the equipment.

Ash trees - Dick stated that dead ash trees in the Triangle have been removed. The Town of Palmyra has a state grant to replace ash trees, some of which will be planted on District property to replace the dead trees. Mike Vant has taken down more than 100 ash trees along the township roads.

Trees of honor – Dick mentioned the two trees planted last year in honor of George Ventura and Dr. Frank Shuler to commemorate their years of service to the District are doing fine. Dick is still looking for a company to provide plaques to put on those trees.

Muskrat control - Dick mentioned that Dick Rohloff is still trapping muskrats, but the numbers are down dramatically. The first year of trapping yielded 600 muskrats, and last year it was down to 44. The problem is not what it used to be, but if you see muskrats on the lake, please let Dick know.

Weed harvesting - Dick Natrop mentioned that the Lake District inadvertently let our permit to cut weeds expire last year when it was up for renewal. In order to re-apply for the permit, we had to update our Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM Plan) and submit it to the DNR. The APM Plan was also necessary before we could submit a grant application to help pay for a new weed harvester. Work on the APM Plan was started last summer and it was approved one week before our grant application was voted on in April of this year. Dick mentioned that our use of the small harvester to cut close to shore has been violating our permit, since the DNR does not permit weed cutting in less than 3 feet of water. The small harvester will be sold when the new harvester is delivered.

Water quality – Dick mentioned that it has been a few years since we last had a program to regularly check water clarity on the lake. Jefferson County has a representative who will help us get back to doing regular checks, and District resident Paul Cannestra has volunteered to lead this effort for us. Paul has our GPS system on his fishing boat and will be checking the water quality regularly over the summer. Dick mentioned we may start testing for phosphorus next year as well. He asked that residents not deposit phosphorus-based cleaners, etc. in the lake or sewer system.

Weed spraying – A resident in the audience asked a question about whether or not we would be spraying for weeds this year. Dick replied that it all depends on whether the DNR will issue us a permit to spray. Last year the DNR determined our invasive species problem was not great enough to allow us to spray, but Dick said he and Dick Rohloff are keeping an eye on it this spring to see when and where the weeds emerge. There is no plan to spray yet, but we'll see what happens when the weeds emerge. Dick described the different chemicals allowed by the DNR, and the work he is doing with them to approve a product that has been recommended to us.

Grant for Weed Harvester – Dick Natrop mentioned the work done by Dick Herbst who helped us write and submit a grant request to the DNR to help pay for a new weed harvester. Dick Natrop presented our request to the DNR's Waterways Committee in April. Dick stated that our grant request was approved and the DNR awarded us 35% of the total cost of the harvester, or approximately \$67,000.

The new harvester has been ordered from Inland Lake Harvesters in Burlington and is currently being manufactured. In addition to the \$67,000 grant, the Lake District has saved approximately \$109,000 in our reserve account over the years, knowing that the harvester would need to be replaced. Dick stated that we have ordered a shore conveyer and a new trailer in addition to the harvester, so the total cost is a little over \$200,000. The District Board approved this expenditure at its last Board Meeting. Inland Lake Harvesters will help us sell both the of the old harvesters, and the money from the sale will more than make up the remainder of what we owe for the new harvester and associated equipment. Dick mentioned that he and Dick Rohloff visited Inland Lake Harvesters to get a look at the new harvester being built. He passed around pictures and said we hope to have the new harvester on the lake in August. Inland will test the harvester before delivery and will also provide 2 days of training after it has been delivered to the lake.

Algae – A resident in the audience asked about the algae bloom that we had on the lake last summer. Dick Natrop responded that this was NOT blue green algae, but was a naturally occurring substance that can develop as a result of what may be flowing into the lake from the swamp or as run-off. It was more prevalent last year because of the amount of rain we had.

DNR Lake Inspections – A resident in the audience asked if anyone from the Lake District goes with the DNR when they are on the lake evaluating whether or not we have sufficient invasive species to warrant spraying. Dick Natrop replied that, unfortunately, the DNR does not notify us before they come. Dick said he would be more than willing to ride along if they will allow it.

Our Town – Jim Hochman thanked Dick Natrop for all his hard work, and told the audience that Dick will be performing at a new dinner-theatre in Mukwonago at the end of June. Dick is starring in Black Box Theatre’s premiere performance of *Our Town*. Congratulations Dick!

9:47 A.M. Town report – Ed Miller

Lake roads – Ed Miller asked if there were any complaints from year-round residents about the saline solution used on snowy roads last winter. There were none. Ed stated that we did not use any salt at all last winter, and the saline seemed to work well especially considering the snow-fall amounts. Ed then addressed road repair. He said the Town is spending around \$20,000 to patch the same areas that were fixed last year. Ed said the Town is planning to hold a meeting in August or September to seek approval for the use of discretionary funds to fix the roads. He said there is a good possibility that the Town could get matching funds from the state.

Trees – As mentioned earlier, Ed said that the Town is donating 5 or 6 trees to the District at no cost to us, to replace the ash trees lost to Emerald Ash Borer.

House number signs - Ed mentioned that many of the red house address signs are bleached and sun-faded. These will be replaced by the Town.

Airport public meeting – Ed said that there would be a public meeting to discuss whether or not to allow another building on the airport property for housing airplanes. This would be a good income source, since they already have a list of people who have expressed interest in using it.

9:52 A.M. Treasurer’s Report - Greg Bauer

Budget Summary – Greg Bauer stated that the district is in good shape financially. He reiterated where the funds to pay for the new harvester are coming from. He mentioned the sewer fund that is in place to cover repairs identified during televising, and he discussed the on-going negotiations with the Village of Palmyra for a new contract to continue sewer service. Greg stated that we received the final report from our auditors this week and the results are satisfactory. Greg then addressed the budget and highlighted areas where the actual amount spent differs from the budget. Over all, expenditures are pretty close to budget. Greg stated that we raised the tax levy a year ago, but that we do not anticipate the need to do so again this year.

10:57 A.M. District Business – Jim Hochman

Timely payments of quarterly sewer bills – Jim asked that everyone pay their sewer bills on time. Those who do not will be charged a late fee beginning with the next sewer bill (second quarter 2019). Those who continue to not pay during the year will have the late fee charged on their tax bill along with the actual sewer bill amount.

Village of Palmyra sewer contract renewal – Jim stated that our sewer contract expired last year and an extension was put in place while the contract was being re-negotiated. The extension has now expired and we are looking to extend again while negotiations continue. Jim stated that he is in touch with the Village engineer and their lawyer. He said the DNR has raised standards for sanitary systems and the Village sewer system will need to be upgraded. The Village is considering a loan for this purpose, however no decision has been made yet and negotiations are on-going. The Village sent data regarding our sewer usage, but the data was from 2012 and out of date. Jim has requested updated information so we can better analyze our usage of the sewer system.

Leaves and yard waste – Jim asked that we please do not rake leaves and other yard waste into the lake, and that we ask our lawn care services not to do this as well. Leaves and yard debris turn into muck which effects the lake bottom and is also a burden on the dam.

10:02 Questions from the public – Jim Hochman asked if there were any questions or comments from the residents in attendance:

Garlic Mustard – Dave and Bonnie Nommensen talked about the invasive species garlic mustard and the need to eradicate it. We have been making progress in the District but the plants persist, especially in the B Lots because of their proximity to the woods. The Nommensens reminded everyone that spring is a good time to identify the plant because their white flowers are evident. They are easy to pull while the soil is moist. Once you have pulled the weeds you can put them in a garbage bag with a note that identifies the contents as garlic mustard. Roundup can also be effective on garlic mustard.

Ski Club – Steve Marcus announced that in honor of the 70th Anniversary of Blue Spring Lake, the Ski Club is ordering commemorative 70th Anniversary apparel. Those who have already ordered can pick up their items at the Marcus residence. Order forms are available for those who still want to order. Steve also mentioned that ski show programs will be delivered to lake residents this week. The dates and times are a little different this year, so please check the program for correct information. The first show, which is really an Exhibition since weather has prohibited practice to this point, is tomorrow night. The Ski Club will have another 50/50 raffle this year to help pay for equipment. Last year's raffle was very successful and raised nearly \$10,000. The Ski Club has purchased a new boat this year so they are no longer using personal boats. This helps with the cost of insurance. Steve mentioned that they are 7 years into rebuilding the Ski Club and they want to make sure it continues. Send your kids and grandkids and come on over to help. There currently is a need for someone to help Karin on the committee boat, and for volunteers to help with fund raising.

Use of the Old School House - A resident asked what was going on with the old school house property. Jim Hochman responded that the new owners, who were in the audience, are hoping to renovate the building and are in the process of acquiring the necessary permits.

Loud car music - Greg Wolak mentioned his concern about loud music coming from cars driving down Blue Spring Lake Drive. He stated that the offenders are good about turning the music down if you make your presence known without confronting them.

10:18 A.M. Annual Meeting – Jim Hochman announced that the Annual Meeting will be Saturday, August 31, 2019 in the Community Center at the high school.

10:19 A.M. Adjourn