

Highland Lake Property Owner's Association  
Board Meeting Highlights - April 2016

Alana Bartolai from the Lake County Health Department and Jennifer Biancalona from Clarke Environmental Services joined us for the April meeting. Bartolai presented a very informative set of slides re. Aquatic invasive species. There are numerous invasive plants and animals that can cause aquatic harm. Zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil, and curly leaf pond weed top the list. To date, we do NOT have zebra mussels in Highland Lake, unlike many of the neighboring lakes. This is great news, as zebra mussels can do great harm to a lake, reduce fish populations, and unbalance ecosystems. At the current time there is no effective solution to the zebra mussel problem. Our best policy is prevention! Please look at the Highland Lake website for more information about prevention.

Biancalona updated those present re. the Clarke Environmental Services work to date. **AFTER MEETING UPDATE:** Clarke conducted a lake-wide survey in April, as did Lake County Environmental Services. Treatment strategies will be determined based on these survey. Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pond weed will be among the treatment targets. Treatment will begin very soon. Exact date information will be posted on the website. Clarke will continue to monitor our lake throughout the summer and fall. Moreover, they will be teaching us to perform our own surveys in the future, which help us as well as add to the county-wide database.

There was an update on pontoon boat entry for the spring. A big thanks to boat owners who are taking extra care to insure that no zebra mussels enter the lake via the trailers that drop the boats in the water, or the boats themselves. The owners will continue to work together to be mindful and preventative going forward.

Ann Bidwell reported on the 2015 tax audit and commended Darren Ruback for his excellent work as treasurer.

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**Full meeting minutes and budget details are available at the next board meeting, May 16th at 7:00pm. All are welcome.**