

HLPOA Board Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2024

Call to Order and Roll Call: By President Ann Bidwell at 7:01 PM. Current Board members present per roll call were Ann Bidwell (president), Cathy DeGroh by Zoom (Vice President), Trisha Steele (Treasurer), Luke Jian, Hans Kribbel, Joe Bigalke, Pat Herendeen and Bob Slipke; Justin Harris and Debi Hall were not present. Marilyn Henry was serving as secretary pro tem. Community members present either in person or by Zoom were Andy Havelly (recording and managing Zoom), Gregg and Lorna Denig, Larry Leafblad, Linda Kuntner, Janet Katien, Ed Venner and Angie Perkins. There were no objections to recording of the meeting or allowance of remote voting so these were approved. There were no changes requested to the February 2024 meeting so they were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Offered by Trisha. This year's collected dues are behind those of last year by about half. To date, we've gotten \$11,125.00, a single contribution of \$1,000.00 and \$3,000.00 in designated contributions. Total contributions by February 29 were \$9,349.00. In March we received \$500.00 for the ILMA scholarship to be used for the Hartnett shore line project. Expenses included \$850.00 for the Hartnett shore line project (Lake Health), \$206.72 for Community (boat stickers and events), and \$29.95 for office supplies. Our February ending cash balance is \$36,870.12.

Change of Board Members: Ann thanked the 4 Board members set to retire (Joe, Cathy, Debi and Justin). This Board accomplished much including doing a fish survey, starting the archive committee, securing a more effective and less costly insurance policy, restarting the newsletter, and rejoining ILMA, among other things. The following people were announced as prospective officers: Ann as President, Pat as Vice President, Gregg Denig as Treasurer and Marilyn as Secretary. Joe Yovino will join as a Board director. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Trisha moved to adopt these people for the positions; Ann Bidwell as President, Pat Herendeen as Vice President, Marilyn Henry as Secretary and Gregg Denig as Treasurer; Hans seconded. There was no discussion offered. The motion passed unanimously.

Trisha then moved to accept the Board resolution to appoint the newly elected officers as stated above to replace Cathy DeGroh as Vice President, Debi Hall as Secretary and Trisha Steele as Treasurer. The resolution also notes that Ann Bidwell will remain in the position as President, and that Ann Bidwell, Pat Herendeen and Gregg Denig are the authorized signers, individually, for the Highland Lake Property Owner's Association at the State Bank of the Lakes checking account ending in 3366. Trisha Steele and Cathy DeGroh will no longer be authorized signers at stated account. The motion was seconded by Pat and there was no discussion. The resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Old Business: Pat reported that the aquatic plant survey will be done late spring/early summer; he is researching vendors. Ann has a lead to give him. Per Ann there will be a guest speaker at the next meeting regarding aquatic plant management. Regarding the fish survey results, Pat reported that secondary to plants or lack thereof some fish species are low in numbers. Residents are encouraged to plant natives along their shorelines. More fish structures placement was suggested to offer protection to them. There were a great many (invasive) carp; ways to get them out need to be explored. Electrofishing was discussed. Pat will contact someone who does this for more information. Ann attended the IL Lake Management Association conference and said it is a wonderful source of information and resources for lake communities. She said our HOA won an award for the work we are doing at Hartnett Park.

New Business: Per Ann, one of our goals is to make our Parks and access lanes more beautiful and functional. Regarding Downey Park, the west end garden has become too large and difficult to maintain. We are exploring

ways to make it smaller and easier to manage. The water garden needs work as well. Buckthorn also needs to be removed at Downey and the Cedar access lane. An estimate of \$1,000.00 was obtained for both areas. Trisha has elderberry plants to donate to replace them. Luke moved to approve spending \$1,000.00 for buckthorn remediation at Downey and Cedar, Hans seconded. There were people among those present that were willing to help with the remediation. The motion was amended to say that the community members would see what they could take down in the next month. After that, money would be spent to remove the trees as proposed. There was a vote and the motion carried. Regarding Chic Park, the boat storage area needs to be cleaned up and there are buckthorns there needing removal as well. There looks to be shoreline erosion that should be addressed, and perhaps a boat access ramp. Regarding piers at the access lanes, Bob suggested 2 section piers or floating piers. He will get information about what is available and costs.

Alice Leafblad is putting together the Highland Lake Egg Trail for March 30th. Luke proposed a multisite egg hunt: children/parents could go from one place to another and meet their neighbors. Ann requested an up to \$75.00 payable for materials for this event. Trisha moved to authorize up to \$75.00 for expenses related to the Highland Lake Egg Trail Project, Gregg seconded. There was no discussion. The motion carried. IL Department of Revenue has asked for \$5.00 more in payment. Motion to pay was made by Bob and seconded by Trisha. The motion carried. Trisha asked for \$19.80 for postage to send out reminders for dues payment; Ann mentioned that there are stamps available.

Committee Reports: Regarding Membership Committee, Trisha cited the Welcome Wagon's work but said that follow up is needed. Dues payment with residents is down from last year; it would be a good idea to reach out to previous payers, or for any person that hasn't paid, for that matter. Ann asked Trisha to update her and any other Board members needed with resident contact information. Trisha questioned, regarding information to protect, it needs to be clarified about what is OK to share. It was brought up that if there was an electronic payment method to accept, we may have more donations. Discussion ensued regarding issues with this and use of credit card payments. Zelle has been set up and is waiting to be approved as soon as March minutes are made available. Regarding Communication Committee, Luke reported Ron Jensen's announcement about Carp Fest which will happen in May. Any money made for this event goes for fish stocking. He will set up work days for the parks. The first will be May 18 for clean up at Chic and Downey.

Boat identification has been a challenge and new Board member Joe Yovino has offered to work on this. He requests updated resident contact lists to help with this. Ann will reach out to Casey Bloomer as to how to approach the Szontagh Park access as this is a separate area from the rest of the parks/access lanes. Regarding Boat ingress, Bob will be out of town May 1st through 15th. He will need backup on opening the gate at Downey and managing the boat launching process. Also, the water is shallow there at the shoreline. When scheduling your boat delivery make sure you remind the marina that you need their longest trailer and to power wash it before the boat is delivered. This will hopefully minimize transmission of zebra mussels. Boat launchers also need to be reminded that any ruts or damage to the launching area are to be repaired by the boat owners.

Community Comments: Comments were made to reconsider use of Pay Pal or Square platforms. A property owner voiced a concern about a juvenile trespasser who has refused to comply with requests to cease the behavior. Ann thought perhaps a call to John Wasik, Lake County Board may help; she will reach out.

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:40 PM by Bob and seconded by Trisha. The motion carried.

Submitted by: Marilyn Henry