

# Rock Lake Improvement Association

## Minutes for Annual Meeting

August 15, 2020 10:00 AM

Korth Park Upper Shelter

- 1) **Call to Order**—10:00 AM
- 2) **Introduction of Board Members**—Those present: Jim Colegrove, John Crump, Wes Dawson, Ralph DePasquale, Mike Nesemann, Bonnie Nolan, Nathan Pyles, Stan Smoniewski, Susan Trier. Approximately 40 people were present including board members, members and friends/family.
- 3) **Approval of Minutes:** Secretary Mike Nesemann read the minutes of Annual Meeting August 24, 2019; approval was unanimous.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report:** (Jim Colegrove) Last year's financial summary (1/1/19 - 12/31/19) was presented and a paper copy was passed out. RLIA account balance as of 12/31/19 was \$39,162.95. Jim reminded everyone that the fiscal year reviewed is 2019. He noted that we have 4 CD's that were purchased and therefore mature at regular intervals in "ladder" fashion and the those are being increased from \$2500 to \$5000 each at appropriate intervals.
  - the Lake grant account remains open.
  - we use PayPal as an "in & Out" account.
  - the Board performed an internal audit of all the accounts for 2019 in February 2020.Motion made to accept the report, seconded & passed unanimously.
- 5) **Public Comments:**
  - Hope Oostdik, Town Chair, raised concerns about the City's process for planning the Sandy Beach development. She called for a moratorium to allow for eliciting more public input. She also responded to a question from a member who asked about law enforcement patrols on the Lake. Hope noted that there is not enough enforcement. If the public witnesses a potential violation they should report that by calling the County sheriff's business line (920-674-7310). For an accident with a potentially serious injury or another emergency call 911.
  - Stan Smoniewski reported that Rock Lake e. coli counts can be found on a link on the RLIA website.
  - A concern was raised about weed problems and Wes Dawson referred that question to the President's Annual Report.
- 6) **President's Annual Report:** (Wes Dawson) Wes thanked the board members and other volunteers for their diligent work. He summarized the detailed report that can be found on the RLIA website. The board laid out 27 action items for the year and the report summarizes the progress on each of these. The 27 goals were chosen based on the comprehensive RLIA 2018 – 2028 plan and that plan's executive summary available on the website. Wes also made a special report regarding weeds that have concerned many lake users particularly those who live on the West side. Wes noted that aquatic plants may be removed in front of your property for a total of 30 feet parallel the shoreline but otherwise there are a number of regulatory limitations and there are good ecologic reasons to be very judicious on removing aquatic weeds. A permit is required for mechanical removal. See the Annual Report on the RLIA website for details.
- 7) **Committee Reports:**

- A) Boat/trailer/pier survey: (Bonnie Nolan & Mike Neesemann) Compared to the last count in 2006, boat counts were mixed with some types being increased and others being decreased with an overall count that was reasonably stable from the previous one. Of note, boats that require paddling, particularly kayaks and paddle boards were up considerably but fishing boats were down. New to the lake are larger heavier boats made for wake boarding/wake surfing. Some concerns have been raised about the impact of this class of boats. The validity of the survey was limited due to the day of the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend that was chosen (Sunday) which turned out to be significantly less busy than Friday and Saturday. The number of boat trailers in the parking areas were significantly increased from 2002 as were the number of buoys (many of which are placed by the general public and are not placed in accordance with regulations.)
- B) Communication update: (Stan Smoniewski & Susan Trier) The website, Facebook site, Lake Mills Leader, e-mails and post cards are all utilized. The website is most detailed and is a wealth of information and links. The Facebook site attracts new members and friends of the RLIA. Regarding e-mails, Susan noted that we send out about 6/year and asked that members "white-list" RLIA emails so that they are not eliminated by "spam filters".
- C) Dash Board: (Nathan Pyles) The 27 goals set by the board at the start of the year, as well as the progress made or not made, may be seen on our new Dash Board in a nice visual outline summary. The copies of the Dashboard were posted on the pavilion pillars for the meeting for viewing by all present and the Dash Board is available on the website. Progress or lack thereof is indicated by color coding: Green (progressing), Yellow (limited progress) and Red (no progress).
- D) Farmer led producer group: (Nathan Pyles) Ecologically optimal farming methods can significantly protect lake water quality along with multiple other ecologic benefits. Methods include cover crops, no-till or minimal-till farming methods which can dramatically minimize nitrogen and phosphorous run-off which is one of the main sources of lake pollution. The state has made grants available of offset startup costs of changing to these methods. The number of farmers in the Rock Lake watershed interested in pursuing these grants is too small to qualify but there is a county-wide farmer led producer group that we hope will be able to successfully apply for these grants.
- E) Save the turtle campaign: (Susan Trier & Mike Neesemann) Susan reported that RLIA paid for the temporary signs along areas of high turtle counts and the County plans on placing permanent ones on County A. Numerous people present indicated that they had seen the signs which are most prevalent on Shorewood Hills Rd. There appeared to be general enthusiasm for the campaign among those present at the meeting.
- F) AIS cleaning stations and drain marking: (Jim Colegrove) AIS stands for aquatic invasive species stations. Signs with instructions and attached special tools allow for boat cleaning to prevent invasive species entry into the lake and to prevent invasive species found in Rock Lake to spread to other lakes. This was completed by a Town resident for his Eagle Scout project with the coordination and help from Jim and financial backing of RLIA. Another Eagle scout project was the marking with placards of storm sewer drains to discourage City residents from dumping chemicals and other pollutants into these drains which drain directly into the lake. The posted information also asks residents to keep the drains free from leaves which prevent proper drainage. Both Eagle Scout projects were great additions to the work we support to promote a healthy Rock Lake.

- 8) **Joint Rock Lake Committee:** (Stan Smoniewski) Stan explained that this committee is complementary to the RLIA. It endeavors to coordinate planning between the Town of Lake Mills and the City of Lake Mills to promote a safe and healthy Lake community. The coordination between these 2 entities can be challenging. The number of meetings was limited due to the pandemic, but they did meet 4 times. Accomplishments this year included persuading the Town to change regulations to come into compliance with State regulations. The committee proposed new regulations for vehicles on ice; boat safety information was added to the RLIA website at the committee's suggestion; Navigation buoy regulations were reviewed (these are maintained by the Town) among other items.
- 9) **The Stewardship Award** was presented to Glenn Zastrow who has been on the Joint Rock Lake Committee since its formation in 1998 (22 years!) He has been instrumental in helping develop policies and ordinances that balance public and private interests in navigation and recreational activities on Rock Lake. He did this with strong resolve, often mixed with humor and was always ready to take on responsibilities. In light of his decades of dedication to maintaining a healthy Rock Lake, he is presented with our highest honor, the Stewardship Award. His acceptance speech was heart-felt and a nice contingent of family members was present.
- 10) **Nominations for the Board:** Retirements from the Board include Wes, who has been President of the RLIA for the last 5 of his many years on the Board and Bonnie Nolan who has been the chair of the Membership and Recreation Committee. They were thanked for their tireless service to the Association. Board members who have completed their 3 year term but have volunteered to stay on include Mike Nesemann who has been Secretary and Jim Colegrove who has served as Treasurer for many years.
- 11) **Candidates talking points:** Sharron Webster submitted a letter of interest in serving and spoke at the meeting, she gave a summary of her background and indicated her interest in improving the Lake, especially emphasizing her interest in our becoming better stewards of the Mill Pond. Bruce Ward was unable to attend the Annual meeting but submitted a letter of interest stating that he wants to join the Board to participate in keeping the Lake a place people would like to enjoy for years to come. He is interested in promoting water quality and improving its fishery as well as the habitat for all creatures that depend on a clean and healthy lake.
- 12) **Election of the new Board:** The 4 candidates noted above were voted in unanimously by voice vote.
- 13) **Next Board meeting:** 09/21/20. Location TBD.
- 14) **Motion to adjourn** was made and seconded, and passed unanimously by voice vote.