

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

www.rocklake.org

Minutes for October 21, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.,

City of Lake Mills City Hall, 200 Water Street, Lake Mills, WI 53551

1. Call to Order. 6:30 PM

Members present: Jim Colegrove, Wes Dawson, Mike Nesemann, Stan Smoniewski, Ralph DePasquale, Nathan Pyles, John Crump, John Thode

Absent: Susan Trier, Bonnie Nolan

Guests: Patricia Cicero

2. **Agenda.** Motion to adopt made by Wes, seconded, unanimously approved.

3. **Good news minute** – members shared good news items.

4. **Secretary's report.** Motion to approve September 2019 minutes made by Jim, seconded, and unanimously approved.

5. **Treasurer's report.** Jim referred to the previously emailed September's financial reports, accepted without questions.

- He raised the issue of our 4 laddered CDs coming due and whether to roll them over. There is no mechanism for having that done automatically. Issue placed on November's agenda
- He filed a 990 tax form, which takes the place of a regular tax return for organizations such as RLIA.
- The State of Wisconsin requested \$10 for registration as a tax-exempt organization.
- The latest edition from [Groundswell](#), a land trust active in Dane County and the surrounding area, was received and passed around.
- An advertisement from [Natural Lake](#), a company offering "natural" methods to control aquatic weeds was received.
- The Rock River Coalition requested we renew our affiliate membership for \$50/year. Jim determined that the membership was not paid in 2018 or 2019. Patricia advised that this group, amongst other things, supports stream monitoring in the Rock River watershed and does other projects including a map of restorable wetlands in the Rock River basin. Jim made a motion to allot \$100 for 2019 dues (and \$50 as a donation which would "cover" the missed 2018 dues). It was seconded and passed unanimously and a check was written for Wes to sign.

6. **Public Comments.** Anita Martin emailed a suggestion that someone from the RLIA Board volunteer to serve on the Jefferson County Land and Water Resource Management Plan Committee. Patricia explained that the State requires an overall county plan every 10 years. Wes will send out the previous plan and info regarding duties and time commitments.

7. Committee reports.

a) Water Quality.

i) **Agricultural.** Nathan said they are waiting for the end of harvest season to meet with Daybreak officials re setting up a local producers' council and apply for a grant to defray the costs involved, e.g., planting cover crops. The application is due 8/20 and it is encouraging that the Legislature not only increased the amount per grant (to \$40,000) but also the overall amount of money available.

ii) Public streets. Jim was told that our flyer re proper leaf control procedures was supposed to have been included in the last City utilities bill mailing but should appear next month.

- No Boy Scout was identified to take on the storm drain markers project so we will discuss implementation at a spring meeting.

iii) Residential. Stan said approximately 560 Healthy Lakes Initiative post cards had been mailed and Patricia said she had already been contacted for more information by one of the recipients. John T asked whether RLIA could provide some form of discount or partial reimbursement to people purchasing native plants, but our charter and bylaws prohibit use of membership funds to assist individuals.

iv) Water sampling. Ralph has been in touch with interested volunteers and is working with Patricia to ensure they are trained and ready to go next spring.

b) **Public outreach**. Our efforts at the Fall Festival were discussed and Stan suggested we limit the number of such events we participate in. Wes referred the question to Stan's committee and requested they provide guidance to the board.

c) **Habitat**. Chairman and issues pending.

d) **Membership and Lake Recreation**. Bonnie. Absent.

8. Other reports.

a) **County representative**. Patricia handed out data sheets summarizing the Rock Lake Clean Boats, Clean Waters program hours and performance at the 5 boat launches on the lake. She was pleased with the increase in inspection attributing it to the diligence and dedication of the inspectors. She presented this data to the Town and will do so to the City in November, encouraging them to apply for grants for next year. She also provided handouts with current data and historical trends of Rock Lake, Mud Lake, and Rock Creek in regard to water clarity, chlorophyll, and total phosphorus.

b) **JRLC**. Stan reported that at their last meeting a warden reported a number of thefts off piers and out of boats on the north end. He also referred to a conversation over water quality testing at Sandy Beach. The beach water is tested for E. coli while the wastewater from the city's plant is tested for fecal coliforms. If the standards for wastewater testing are changed to E coli (as currently proposed on the state level), that would greatly ease the logistics of testing at Sandy Beach and retesting prior to 1 week would then be possible. Patricia opined that most of the coliforms at Sandy Beach are likely due to seagulls and geese.

9. Old Business. None

10. New Business.

a) The Knickerbocker Festival will be held 2/1/20. Jim and Ralph volunteered to help staff our station. Additional planning details will be developed.

b) Assuming electronic compatibility, board members will share their contact info.

c) John T. noted the seeming expansion of docking rights granted to the new condo development on the north end. Board members recounted the RLIA's efforts to limit the number of slips the PIE was allowed to put in at Sandy Beach, but the decision is ultimately a political one by the Town Board.

11. Next board meeting. Monday, November 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m., City Hall.

12. Adjournment. Mike moved for adjournment at 7:55 p.m., which was seconded and unanimously approved.