

# ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

[www.rocklake.org](http://www.rocklake.org)

Minutes for October 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Via ZOOM

1) **Call to Order** – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jim Colegrove, Mike Neesemann, Nathan Pyles, John Crump, Stan Smoniewski, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward, Sharron Webster

Guests: Keith Clark, Corey Nelson

Absent: John Thode, Ralph DePasquale

2) **Good News Minute** – Meeting participants shared recent good news.

3) Motion to accept the agenda Made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

4) **Secretary's Report** – Motion to approve September 2020 meeting minutes made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

5) **Treasure's Report** Jim.

Motion to accept September Treasurer's report made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Susan was able to roll the last of the "old" CDs into a new one.

He explained that the money we receive from PayPal (PP) goes into a specific PP checking account and thence into our regular checking account. PP takes a 3.5% fee.

The Post Office Box was empty the last times he checked.

Susan requested \$34 for costs of new riparian owners' packets, Jim reminded all that he cannot sign checks, they must be signed by either the Chairman (John C) or Vice-Chair (Susan).

6) **Public Comment(s)/Correspondence** –

Keith Clark -- is a resident who lives on Miljala Channel and speaking for other residents there, would like to have two of them on the subcommittee on erosion.

Cory Nelson – will be moving to Lake Mills soon and is interested in habitat and fishery issues.

7) **Committee Reports** John C explained the plan is to have all committees' plans ready by 1/21 so we can brainstorm and discuss to enable implementation early in 2021. This also allows us to alert members in plenty of time to get activities on their calendars.

**I. Habitat**

**A) fisheries** - Bruce –

presented a very informative PowerPoint. He and Cory will be in contact with Laura Stenwick-Thompson of the DNR to discuss coordination between RLIA and the DNR on fisheries issues, including stocking, changing size and number limits (perhaps drop panfish limit from 25 to 20), catch & release, information gathering, etc. The PowerPoint will be posted on the RLIA website ? and FB??

**B) Other habitat – Shar**

- i) getting in touch and working with local private citizens who do various surveys, including bats, turtles, and frogs. Also attempting to contact person who has been doing Millpond surveys for some time
- ii) work with Patricia on aquatic plants, e.g., a bullrush survey that had been planned for 2018 but is now planned for 2021.
- iii) invasive species. Hold annual clean-up for garlic mustard and garbage.
- iv) Millpond dredging. Apparently the City is looking into this again and it's very important we encourage them to solicit public comments.
- v) Miljala Channel vegetation issues and mechanics of obtaining and using a grant for amelioration.
- vi) Clean Boats/Clean Water. CoVid situation will drive the issue of inspectors.
- vii) Shoreline and Shallows Survey 2021. Implementation will greatly depend on availability of access to Jefferson Co. Water Resources person. Position slated to be cut to ½ time. The issue of buoys came up during this – apparently placing them requires DNR approval and the Town is responsible for their placement and maintenance. There are issues of vandalism and funding.

**C) Membership – Ralph. Pending**

**D) Lake Recreation – Ralph. Pending**

**E) Public Outreach - Susan and Stan**

Many of last year's plans were interrupted by CoVid. They emphasized their committee is there to not only plan and implement its own initiatives but also assist other committees in publicizing theirs but requested that other committees actively develop materials to help with publicizing their issues.

- i) Shoreland Breakfast. Pending resolution of CoVid pandemic
- ii) Homeowner's Packet. Besides sending them out, they will be on website (and community Facebook page). The packet will be regularly reviewed and updated to possibly include information on light pollution, aquatic plants, and other topics. They requested input in the form of images, blogs, writing on these topics, etc.
- iii) Institute a section on website (off the slider) just for shoreline owners covering topics germane to them, e.g., "Thinking of making changes to your shoreline?" Include links to appropriate sources. They are also interested in getting support in educating about the website, actively updating social media, learning more about the email tool, and collecting pertinent images.
- iv) Riparian property seller/realtors' letter would be updated to include a section on removal of aquatic plants. Susan noted the letter campaign has started. We've received no response from LM RE/MAX, but did receive an appreciative note from RE/MAX Shine out of Jefferson (which does a lot of business here in LM).

v) Develop a social media campaign on making your property, whether lakeshore or not, a place to support nature. The campaign would start with links to [Doug Tallamy's works](#) outlining the idea and then feature actions that families can take to create this space. It would end with encouraging families to commit to what changes they would like to implement.

vi) Look at creating a Shoreland Stewardship Award, perhaps alternating with the Lake Stewardship Award.

## **8) Other Reports.**

a) **County.** Patricia. Pending.

b) **JRLC.** Stan.

No particularly new updates. They are looking at changing how close wakeboard boats may approach the shore and trying to collect information on that subject.

## **9) Old Business**

a) Strategies to ameliorate overuse of Rock Lake. Stan had presented data in the past re data on safe boating density. As the Lake has a limited capacity for boaters, and on certain Holidays and weekends that capacity is significantly surpassed, one idea is to limit the number of boat trailers that can park at lake launches. This has been accomplished at the North End launch by the Town and County when the parking lot was re-designed. A main area of concern is the Sandy Beach Launch, which Stan thinks is registered to contain 16 trailer parking spots. However, just this past July 14, RLIA volunteers counted 39 trailers in the lot, along the road, and at Rotary Park. Jim encouraged reviewing the current parking laws along the Sandy Beach road and at Rotary Park. Corey suggested contacting the alderman/supervisor for that area to see if residents are unhappy with the parking situation. Stan's presentation would be useful if given to the City Council to encourage their participation in efforts to enforce the legal parking of trailers. Jim pointed out that the master plans of both Jefferson County and the Town led to reducing the original planned number of parking spots on the North End. It was also pointed out that changing the City's apparent mindset on this would likely be difficult and consideration should be given as to the likelihood of success vs the amount of time and effort invested. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to send a letter to the City and County re our concerns re lake carrying capacity and unregulated boat trailer parking. Stan will write the first draft.

b) F/U on Jefferson County Water Resource Position. The Parks Committee recommended cutting the position to 1/2 time. There will be a County Board meeting 10/27 at 1900 for the final budgeting decisions and we will send a letter to the Board recommending full funding.

## **10) New Business**

a) Storm Drain Steward Program. Susan. It was noted that the most recent City utility bills contained the agreed upon leaf-free streets insert. Further discussion was tabled.

b) Volunteers requested for an Ad Hoc committee in conjunction with JRLC to develop a zoning brochure for the new home owner packets. Susan and Shar volunteered.

**11) Next Meeting:** Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Zoom.

**12) Adjourn** – A motion was made to adjourn, which was seconded and unanimously passed at 8:10 p.m.