

**ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

**Minutes for Saturday, January 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**

**Via ZOOM**

**Special meeting to review committee plans**

**1) Call to Order –9:00 a.m.**

Members present: Mike Nesemann, Nathan Pyles, John Crump, Stan Smoniewski, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward, Sharron Webster, John Thode

Guests: Cory Nelson, Patricia Cicero, Anita Martin

Absent: Ralph DePasquale, Jim Colegrove

**2) Motion to accept the agenda - Made, seconded, and unanimously approved.**

**3) Committee Presentations**

**A. Fisheries (Bruce, John T, Cory)**

1) Bruce recounted their meeting with DNR personnel who felt the only measure indicated was placing additional fish sticks. An area on the south side, east of the RR trestle has potential. RLIA had placed fish sticks near Tyranena Park for a total cost of about \$2,000, but Patricia pointed out that the city had donated the trees (being cut down anyway) and Healthy Lakes Grant money was involved, which would not be permitted at this site because it is DNR owned land. Unlike Rock Lake (considered a “little gem of a lake” by the DNR), undeveloped lakes are largely ringed by fallen trees, providing important habitat in addition to the more commonly recognized weed beds, rock piles, etc. A motion was made and seconded to authorize pursuing this with pertinent DNR personnel as well as the City, Town, and Forrest Landscaping and Construction (who transported the trees to the Tyranena location). Susan suggested publicizing this project in advance both to advise fisherman re our activities as well as alerting the public because some people anchor and swim in the proposed area. She also recommended including that the fish sticks could help keep the lake cooler in an era of rising water temperatures.

2) Bruce and Cory were considering looking at local bait shops to see the status of using only native minnows, avoiding potential invasive species and possibly producing a brochure on this issue to be distributed to the shops. Patricia said that shops must be licensed and there are regulations in place re allowed bait fish. She will share her info with them and they will investigate further.

3) They brought up doing a harvest survey, which would be in addition to the DNR conducted shocking and netting surveys. Cory pointed out that the DNR does creel surveys and pays folks to administer questionnaires to fishermen coming off lakes – but this is an area where volunteers might be of use.

**B. Other Habitat (Shar)**

Recommendations in The Rock Lake Management Plan provide guidance to support the habitat goal and as such the plans for 2021 are as follows:

#### Wildlife:

1. Frog and toad surveys (full or partial cancellations due to Covid-TBD)
2. Bat survey (acoustic monitoring) planned.
3. Turtles—road signs, encourage citizens to report sightings, promote nest cages. Susan had several additional suggestions: i) consider where to place the temporary turtle crossing signs in light of last year's surveys ii) contact the Co. Highway Dept re when to "open" the permanent signs iii) contact owners, especially on the north side re interest in hosting nests and nest cages. Nathan said a riparian owner on Schultz Bay is open to putting in turtle landings and improved nesting areas.

#### Invasive & Nuisance Species:

1. Clean Boats/Clean Water: There is grant money from 2 grants for work in 2021 (activity TBD due to Covid)
2. Garlic mustard and garbage pick-up canceled due to Covid-19 liability concerns.

#### Mill Pond & Channel:

The DNR grant proposed to do more testing to inform dredging decisions. Grant is a 2 step process, pre-proposal due in September, final application due November 1st. The City did not go forward with this grant proposal last year, unclear if they will this year. We will monitor.

#### Aquatic Plants:

1. DNR to explore 2022 grant for hand removal of Miljala channel milfoil if shown to be invasive (grant deadlines same as above for dredging).
2. Educate landowners about native aquatic plant removal laws. This will be discussed in Shoreland Zoning brochure and/or web content currently in progress.

#### Shoreland and Shallows:

1. Perform survey in 2021 if the Jefferson Co. water resource position has enough time. Patricia said the position will be funded at the 75% level and the opening was posted last week. It's likely the person will be available to help with invasive aquatic species.

#### C. Membership (Ralph, Jim, John T)

Ralph was absent but his committee is discussing updating the annual membership drive brochure and whether the mailing audience should be expanded beyond the traditional riparian owners plus households across the street from them. Susan said there is another class of mailing where the post office blankets everyone in the zip code, an example being the large, colored post cards sent out by a local jeweler. This is much cheaper than "usual" mailing and would reach a broader audience. Discuss at Feb. meeting.

#### D. Lake Recreation (Ralph) Tabled.

#### **4) Old Business**

- A. Letter advocating City to limit parking to alleviate lake overcrowding. (Stan, John T., Mike)

Stan had already circulated a draft of the letter he proposed sending to the City Council with copies to the Town and JRLC. A motion approving this was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Consideration will be given to sending it in abbreviated form as a letter to the editor.

B. Letter advocating for uniform 200' slow no wake zone [SNW] from shore. (Stan)

The JRLC is recommending this to the City and Town and a motion (made, seconded, and unanimously approved) was made for us to send a letter on our letterhead supporting them. This would simplify the rules (currently they differ for type of watercraft), be safer by decreasing area where swimmers and non-motorized traffic would interact with speeding boats, and diminish the damage done by scouring to the nearshore areas. The DNR has data documenting the difference in bottom scouring (damage) between SNW and "open speed" zones. Patricia had provided maps which showed that increasing the SNW from the current 100 foot to 200 feet would decrease the amount of acreage available to open speed zones by 49 acres. The motion passed unanimously. Next step is to submit a draft for approval at the February meeting. John T brought up the damage done by wake board boats, which was documented in an email he had sent out to the Board. All agreed this was an important issue but will need to be taken up later.

C. Zoning Board of Appeals. A motion was made and seconded to establish an ad hoc committee to consider short and long-term actions re the ZBA decision that we addressed at the recent special board meeting in December. Mike said he had been appointed as an alternate, currently the sole ZBA opening. He emphasized that he would be bound by City regulations and guidance from the City's experts and attorney. There was general agreement that the short-term goal was to encourage (by a letter) the ZBA to follow and enforce existing zoning regulations while long-term goals included updating the regulations and strengthening enforcement provisions. Nathan, John T, and John C volunteered and Patricia said she could help with advice re shoreland regulatory issues and planning commission matters. The motion passed unanimously.

**5) New Business**

A) Appoint a committee to review and update the bylaws.

A motion to do so was made and seconded. This is necessary as they have not been updated in a long time. Mike will Chair, with Jim and John C. as members. The motion was approved unanimously.

**6) Adjourn** – A motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and unanimously passed at 10:20 a.m.

Next Meeting (via Zoom): Monday, January 18, 2021, 6:30 PM