

# ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

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

Minutes for May 16, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Via ZOOM

## 1) Call to Order – 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Jim Colegrove, Mike Neemann, Nathan Pyles, Susan Trier, Bruce Ward, Jim Kerler, John Thode, Candace Diaz

Absent: John Crump, Tom Krejcie

Guests: Marisa, Ulman, Keith Clark, Jean Schoeni

## 2) Good News Minute – Participants shared recent good news.

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

## 4) Secretary's Report (Mike)–

A) Motion to approve 4/18/22 minutes made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

B) Mike reviewed the bylaw's delineation of officers' roles, including the VP acting during absence of President.

C) Update on D&O insurance. Cost will be about \$450 and we will ask to start when available.

## 5) Joint Rock Lake Committee Report (Susan). Stan Smoniewski resigned. The new officers are President Wendy Catalani-Davies, VP Pat Stevens, Secretary Kathy Kunz. Susan had reminded them of our meeting and asked Wendy whether they will continue to provide updates.

## 6) Treasure's Report-

- Motion to approve April, 2022 financial report made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

- Brainstorm re membership retention. Jim C's graphs confirm a drop in renewals. Several options were discussed including offering multi-year memberships (obviating people forgetting to renew), and incentives. A discussion ensued including a mass mailing to gauge interest in these ideas. Member Jeff Davis had emailed with ideas re membership, including going to neighbors and offered to work with Tom on this. All are encouraged to contact them with ideas.

## 7) Public Comment(s)/Correspondence –

A. Guests. Keith and Jean said they'd seen 6 purple martins near the osprey nest who may be nesting in the martin houses by the southern shelter.

B. Mail. Jim said mail was limited to some mass mailings, including the quarterly [Groundswell](#) newsletter. This is the group that is spearheading the attempts to acquire the Marsh Lake parcel off County A.

C. Email/Facebook. Susan said it had been an active month with posts on: the Girl Scout turtle campaign (2,294/2807/2823 people reached), garlic pull and cleanup (2871/168), Dark Sky event (244), gardener awareness of AIS (107 people), city comprehensive plan (65), avian flu (206). Clearly residents were very interested and supportive of the Girl Scout turtle project.

## 8) Other Reports A. County Representative Marisa Ulman.

- CBCW update: 2 applicants for watercraft inspector positions were hired, plus the 2 who renewed gives a total of 4. Concern was raised over the importation of spiny water fleas from infected lakes, especially via wake boarding boats.

- Shoreland survey comparison: She went through the executive summary, pointing out the differences between the 2016 and 2021 surveys. Some good news, e.g., in 2016 1.93 miles of shoreline (26.4% of total) met the state standard for vegetated cover in riparian zone (within 35 feet of lake) of > 65% shrubs, trees, and native plants????). In 2021 2.39 miles (33.1%) met it which isn't quite up to the 2022 goal of 39% but moving in the right direction. The average buffer width increased from 7.7 to 9.8 feet with an increase from 18.7% to 24.2% of parcels meeting state standards.

It should be noted that while 2/3 of the parcels (>200 properties) on Rock lake are 50' -99' in lakefront width, only 46 of them have adequate vegetated buffers. So there is ample opportunity for individual landowners to increase their vegetated buffers. Please see the executive summary.

- Volunteers for various water and AIS sampling. Will discuss this plus AIS training at next meeting.

B. Miljala Channel DNR grant update (Susan, Marisa, others). The topo survey is complete but we still need to select an engineering firm. Susan and Marisa met with several firms and apparently part of the reason for the paucity of bidders was that words like "preliminary" and "final" are somewhat elastic for us, but very strictly defined for the engineers for projects like this. [Stantec Engineering](#) is quite experienced with this type of work and we hope for a bid from them in addition to the RFP bid from REA. Given time constraints and the need for a quick decision once proposals are received, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved authorizing John Crump or Susan to engage an engineering firm if their proposal fulfills the RFP criteria.

Jim C pointed out that we should have received 75% of the DNR grant money to fund this, but none has come yet. Marisa will look into that. He also pointed out the necessity of tracking the work done, by whom, and how much time. Susan and Marisa will work with him on this.

**9. Educational topic/making waves:** There are many issues facing Rock Lake and it can be difficult for board members to make time to understand all of them. It was suggested that board members could volunteer to research one topic specific to Rock Lake, send their notes out in advance to the board, and then provide a brief overview with time to address questions during the meeting. Volunteers are needed to try this out for a few months. It was decided to make this a standing agenda item for 10-15 mins.

## 10. Old Business.

A) Annual Garlic Mustard Pull 4/22-5/1 (Bruce). There was less FB traffic related to it this year. Unfortunately, and unpredictably, the weather was such that garlic mustard flowering was delayed, which may be part of the reason.

B) Supporting County's acquisition of Mud Lake water access plot. We sent a supportive letter to the County. Susan suggested putting together a video, including drone shots and interviews, that County officials could use

in their presentations. She will talk to Kevin Wiesmann about this. Donations were also discussed including matching member donations. Jim C confirmed that there is no conflict with our tax status to make a contribution on this project. Amount to be discussed at a later meeting.

C) Summer Family Events at Korth. Looking at getting volunteers to present at Legendary Learning sessions. Candi found a design graduate to develop a promotional flyer for the program which will be distributed during the summer school class and around town. RLIA will post announcements on their FB page and Cory will look into putting it up on the Legendary Lake Mills website. An update on the summer school program: Candi has been able to incorporate two sessions of lake information within the fishing summer school class. Valerie Krejcie and Sue Volenec will be teaching those lake topics. The issue of non-lead sinkers being encouraged for the summer school fishing classes was raised and will be pursued. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved authorizing up to \$350 for the printing of the flyers, providing environmental journals for the students, plus light refreshments for those attending Legendary Learning sessions.

D) Slow No Wake Zone (SNWZ). Regret was voiced over the Town Board's recent refusal to implement a uniform 200 foot SNWZ. A member asked if we should circulate a petition asking them to reconsider. It was also pointed out that the lake users' survey in the Lake Management Plan strongly supported this given the high response rates for serenity, swimming, and non-motorized craft. Also, the 200 ft SNWZ on Lake Ripley enjoys strong support from its members. It should also be noted that 30% of Rock Lake users also use lakes which already have a uniform 200 ft SNWZ, including Lakes Ripley, Mendota, Monona, Kegonsa, Waubesa and Lake Geneva.

## **11. New Business.**

A) Turtle campaign. Susan said the Girl Scouts had put up a nice display at the LD Fargo library as well as at some schools. She also said there are now apparently rehab centers in Madison and Oconomowoc that can rehab turtles with cracked shells. We will work on getting contact information.

B) Update on Summer School Program. (Candace) See 10c above.

C) Members were reminded that those up for reelection need to think about their plans and the need to recruit candidates. A nominating committee will be needed.

**12. Adjourn.** A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and unanimously passed at 8:25 P. M.

Next Board meeting: Monday 6/20/22 at 6:30 P.M. (City Hall).