

HLA Meeting Minutes for 8/26/24

Hidden Lake Association Board Of Governors monthly meeting for August 26, 2024.

BOG members in attendance: Bob Kiehm, Brian Polak, Frank Nunes, Jay Cassella, Laurel Hoynoski, Sheri Berger, Heather Edelson, Cynthia Porriello

Board members absent: Lloyd Pearson

Members in attendance: Alan Stokke, Joe Spinelli, Marybeth Russo

Members in attendance by Zoom: Karin Bullock, Victoria Nicholson, Andrea Hayes

- General Discussion: Marybeth Russo thanked the many volunteers for their work on repairing the association roads. Alan Stokke noted that the meeting minutes from the June 24 Board Of Governors meeting had some issues, he noted that there is a mention of a motion to add items to the meeting, but it does not actually specify what the language of the motion was. He also remarked that as it pertains to the Special Meeting to address bylaws, he does not feel in his opinion that there is a need for said Special Meeting in order to update the bylaws, that it can just be done at the annual meeting. As it pertains to the Special Meeting for making changes to the budget, he also feels that the Board Of Governors should be able to transfer necessary monies amongst various line items without the need for a Special Meeting. He is not sure what an accountant would say, but he feels that it would be beneficial at a minimum for the Board Of Governors to review and revise our standard operating procedures. Also, Alan Stokke noted that as it pertains to the previous, reading of email communications by Jay Cassella, he did ask Jay Cassella for copies of those emails but that said copies were never emailed to him.

- Approval of Minutes: Sheri Berger mentioned that in the minutes from the prior months meeting, there is a mention of a pickup truck observed which was conducting treatment of invasive species. It is felt that the Minutes should specify that said truck was seen at Chatfield Hollow, and not anywhere on our HLA lake. As it pertains to the Lake and Dam report, we should specify that the future meeting mentioned is for this year, 2024 and not for next year. The next meeting should have said "to be held August 22" and not "October 22". There is also a typo that has the word "FIR" instead of "FOR" in the section pertaining to the Treasurers Report. A Motion was made by Sheri Berger to approve the minutes for the July meeting with these noted corrections, the motion was seconded by Laurel Hoynoski and it passed unanimously.

-Treasurers Report: As read by Bob Kiehm. He noted that the Association accounts show a total income for the month of \$15,604.72. this includes earnings of \$568.03 in interest from the various money market accounts and Savings account. The total expenses for August amount to \$8,879.45 and the total bank balance is currently at \$191,511.41. A motion was made to accept the Treasure report by Laurel Hoynoski and seconded by Brian Polak, the motion passed unanimously.

- Tax Collectors Report: Presented by Sheri Berger and read out loud with a copy submitted for the file. 2023 Current Tax of \$61,895.92 with \$53,599.76 collected thus far. Back taxes and fees collected are \$74.82 for a total of \$53,674.58. The August 2024 deposit was in the amount of \$15,035.79
- Septic Report: Read by Jay Cassella who noted that 15 properties have been pumped this past month, no issues have been found thus far.
- Road committee report: Read by Jay Cassella who indicated that the West Shore Drive culvert and drain pipe repair work was recently completed by a task force of volunteers, he thanked everyone who helped. He noted that the repairs were tested the very next day as a strong rainfall came through and it showed the new drainage flowing quite nicely.
- Lake and Dam report: Read by Marybeth Russo, who noted that their last meeting was held on August 22 with all members present. On August 14, they conducted water testing, following which the results were examined and information from Pond and Lake Connection was reviewed. The lily pads on the lake were left intact with the most recent treatment as requested by the membership. They have been planning for a comprehensive five-year plan for our lake, they have been reviewing Minutes from prior committee meetings in order to seek guidance for this plan. The Connecticut Lake Watch has been a source of training for them. A new Gmail account has been created for the Lake and Dam Committee. The members have been practicing on how to use the new equipment purchased for lake water testing.
- Aquatic Wildlife Committee: there was no report
- Bylaw Committee: Brian Polak presented, he indicated that they met on August 13 and have been working on getting all the newly approved bylaw language onto the website. It was noted that bylaw's numbers five, 41 and 48 still need to be updated after a thorough review. They have also created new versions of other bylaws for review and submittal for a membership vote, which will be done under New Business.
- Audit Committee: no report was made.
- Website and Facebook Committee: Is reported to be all up-to-date.
- Old Business: There was no old business to discuss
- New Business: There will be a call for a Special Meeting regarding E. Shore Rd. repairs and West Shore catch basin, and the allocation of funds for these projects, an amount which is yet to be determined. Once the work proposals are all in the allocation can be finalized. The Special Meeting will also include new bylaw proposals on bylaws numbers 16, 22 and 24, it was noted that a 10 day notice must be given ahead of the Special Meeting being held. They will also add the reallocation of budget line items to

the agenda ahead of time. The vote for this will require a simple majority to pass, but the bylaw amendments will require a 2/3 majority to pass. 15 members must be in attendance. The Special Meeting is proposed for Sunday, September 15 at 10 AM

The estimates for catch basin cleaning have been coming in and the prices are quite expensive thus far. The Association is looking to complete the catch basin cleaning at end of November in order to allow enough time for all the leaves to come off the trees. The Association is hoping to commence conducting catch basin cleaning on a yearly basis. It is necessary to determine the line item to be the source of funds for this. The expected costs are probably going to be around the \$2,500 mark. We currently have about \$7,000 in reserves, that expenditure would not need a Special Meeting.

- General Discussion was opened: Marybeth Russo noted that the minutes from the August 2023 Special Meeting regarding the drawdown bylaw does not actually state the bylaw for section 41 and 48. Brian Polak will send me the language for the drawdown bylaw in order for Heather Edelson to upload it onto the Association website. It was noted that for the Special Meetings only, it is critical to include all the detailed language of any Motions that are made, and any proposed Bylaw changes. This is not necessary for typical monthly meetings.

As it pertains to boats trespassing on the lake, Jay Cassella indicated that he spoke with the local resident state trooper, and that the trooper came to the lake and spoke with someone who did not have a sticker on his boat. The trooper indicated that unless the Association posts more signs and locks the beaches, it will be difficult to enforce any of these trespassing violations. It was suggested that notices be posted at each road entrance. It was also discussed that it might be helpful to provide all registered boat owners, a second and additional sticker for the other side of each boat so as to more easily identify them while on the lake.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:45 PM by Laurel Hoynoski and seconded by Bob Kiehm. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.