

**Sage Lake Association Meeting
Sage Lake, Michigan**

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON July 31, 2021
In Person and Zoom Video Conference**

Board members present: Vice President Marvin Bartal, Treasurer Mary Ellen Parrott, Secretary Sharon Green, Trustee Brian Hassell, and Trustee Betsy Miner-Swartz. President Patti Rogers and Trustee Randy Stump were absent.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Marvin Bartal on July 31, 2021 at 10:01 am; 30 people in attendance and 3 on Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary's Report: Minutes from June 19, 2021 were sent by email and posted on website. Discussion none. A motion was made to accept from Betsy Hubbard, 2nd by Avery Sinkoff. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Mary Ellen Parrott gave the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report as of 7-27-21 was \$5,186.80 Fish Fund, \$29,299.27 Fireworks Fund, \$3,995.02 Neighborhood Watch, \$47,686.17 General Fund. Total bank balance is \$86,167.26. Mary Ellen reported that we have 253 members to date.

Reports from Committees:

- **Fish Updates** – Chris Lyttle reported.
 - Fishing Team Update –
 - Over the last few weeks the team has met to develop a preliminary plan for the fisheries development over the next few years. The fishing committee proposal is for the following plants from this fall through 2024
 - Walleye – The fishing team agrees that trying to add more walleye into Sage Lake would be beneficial. Walleye are targeted by sport fisherman all over and would benefit the area and fishery. Working with the DNR to determine the number and when to plant will be necessary for a successful plant. The DNR has already said that they may be interested to investigate if the state would help with planting walleye fingerlings for Sage Lake. This is still an idea and has not yet been proposed to the DNR.
 - The idea is to plant somewhere between 500-1000 6-8" fish
 - The plan would to start in the fall of 2022 and continue for 3 years.
 - Also, the plan now is to tag these fish in an effort to study growth and effectiveness of the plant.

- Bluegill – Continue Stocking efforts for the bluegill from this fall through 2024 – The purpose is to ensure that an adequate amount of a new strain of bluegill is introduced into the lake to help with growth rates and total population of the fishery.
 - The idea is to plant 3000 from 2022 through 2024 (an Increase from 2000 in the 2020 stocking)
 - We are still investigating the replacement of the 2021 bluegill stocking. I have been told that the fish at Harrietta are looking better, but it is unknown how many fish will make it still. – The Fishing committee will investigate the possibility to look at other hatcheries if we are unable to obtain enough fish through the current supplier.
- Fathead Minnow – Continue planting of additional minnows is planned; this will help to maintain the balance of our predator / prey populations.
 - The idea is to plant 1000 lbs from 2022 through 2024 (Same as 2020 and 2021)
- Habitat Management
 - The Fishing committee continues to discuss options for habitat management with the DNR and at the moment we have been approved by the DNR to apply for permits with Michigan EGLE to add two artificial structures to the lake. – At this time they will need to be purchased from a supplier and placed in only two locations around the lake.
 - Investigation is ongoing as to the type and placement of these structures.
 - Over the next couple months we will be introduced to the new biologist from the DNR who will work with our team to develop a comprehensive plan for the lake fisheries management.
 - Our current request is to have Sage Lake become a sort of case study to look at the effects of both artificial and natural habitat, looking at longevity of the habitat and overall effectiveness for habitat. – This will be evaluated though when we are introduced to the new biologist.
- **Kids Fun Day** – Sharon Green reported that we had the fun day on July 17th due to weather. It was originally supposed to be June 26th. We had a smaller turnout partly due to Covid and partly due to the date change. We had 36 kids show up and we gave away a boy's and a girl's bike to top winners in that category, then we had prizes and such donated so that every child was able to go home with an item. It was a wonderful day for the kids. Sharon sent out a thank you to all the volunteers who were many! From Ron & Mary Kraatz who allowed us to use the barn for parking, to many of the Neighborhood Watch volunteers who gave us their time and energy on that day, to Mark & Vicky from Crusins, and last but not least all the many volunteers who helped with games & face painting. Thank you to all of the volunteers, I could not have pulled it off without you!

- **8th Annual Sage Lake Firecracker 5k walk/run** – Betsy Miner-Swartz reported that it was a record turnout of almost 400 people. Thank you to Norma Valentine & family for allowing us to use that area for the walk. We were a little worried that we would run out of parking but due to Jay LeHenry allowing us to use his lot for parking and the numerous people that parked elsewhere, walked in or came by boat it worked fine. Kids Run should have been ½ mile and they ended up running 1 mile so sorry for that. Due to supply chain issues with shirts and medals we didn't have enough for all but everyone took that in stride and it was a perfect day. We made about \$24,000 in revenue from gear sales and 5k (less expenses) and the beneficiary of this year's race is the fish fund.
- **Sage Lake Gear Sales** – Betsy Miner-Swartz reported on this and said we have about \$17,000+ in gear sales and this is 100% a big thank you to the community for buying the gear. Sales are winding down at the barn at Patti Roger's place but Crusins has allowed us to use their building for gear sales at no cost to us. Thank you so much for that Mark & Vicky. The quilt and airplane ride raffle will be drawn on Labor Day and we have done about \$2000 in sales on that so far.
- **Sage Lake Firework Show** – With the exception of a few duds at the beginning, it was a very good show! The day after the fireworks, Tony Stockton led the crew of volunteers doing cleanup. He said next year, he would like to schedule it earlier so instead of 10:00 am we will start next year at 9:30. A big thank you for all who helped and for Tony taking the lead.
- **Boat Parade** – We had 15 participants with 490 votes cast for winning boat. Top three winners were within a five-vote span. First place went to the Mulder's family with a battleship game, 2nd place was awarded to the Grover family with Candyland and 3rd place was the Suputo family with Scrabble. We want to thank St. Helen Power Sports for donating the beautiful trophies again this year. SLA requested ideas for next year and Robin Miner-Swartz created a SurveyMonkey survey to determine what the theme will be next year. The votes are due by August 1st. Update: 2022 Boat theme is Decades.
- **Boating Safety** – Patti Rogers reported that it was held on July 10th. We had 27 participants and it was the biggest class ever! SLA provided pizza and pop to all who attended. SLA gave waterproof cases for their boating safety certificate.
- **Sage Lake Annual Fishing Tournament** – Ron Carpenter reported. There were 12 folks that participated and \$225 in prize money was given out. We were glad we had people attend even in the rain. Ron said we could have postponed it but already had people showing up to fish so went ahead with it.
- **Sage Lake Community Garage Sale** – this is set for August 7th. Ads were placed in local papers like Ad-liner and Norester. Maps are being made and given to Crusins and Lovewells on Thursday Aug 5th. If anyone wants a map for their sale, pick up on Thursday at 683 Second Ave., Hale. Community garage sales signs will be put at the corner of streets having sales the Sunday before the sale. There are about 20 homes involved at this point.
- **Neighborhood Watch** – NW volunteers provided road safety for the 5k walk/run. 6 new walkie talkies were purchased along with stop and go signs to help direct traffic. Many suggestions were made to improve the road safety at the 5k. For

example, add a lane closure ahead signage, ask Sheriff Dept. for road safety training, purchase more cones and walkie talkies. NW volunteers also provided safety patrol and parking assistance for the Fun Day. We thank all who volunteered.

- **Volunteer Appreciation Party** – It will be held at 683 Second Ave. from 4-8 pm on Saturday, August 21st. Dinner and refreshments will be provided. All who helped make SLA the success it is, are invited to attend.
- **Goose Round-up** – Nothing to report.
- **Meet and Greet** – Meet and Greet is back on! Colleen Duffy and Kurt Schottenheimer will host on August 28 4-6 pm. Their home is 3865 Maple Road, Lupton. Down from Kenyon's before you cross the bridge over the dam. Bring a drink to share and/or appetizer.
- **Lake Maintenance** – PLM is the company who is managing the aquatic plants. Bre Grabill was here from PLM. Bre is an environmental scientist and will give a brief update on what and who PLM is, what PLM has found and done so far this year on the lake. She will highlight the goals of APM (aquatic plant management) and discuss the infestation of SSW (starry stonewort) and treatment options.

New Business

- Bre Grabill introduced herself as an MSU Graduate on the study of fresh water. She has been with PLM for 20 years and her goals today were to explain the diversity of plants growing and to work with the district to manage our lake. The first thing she explained was the lake is one body of water (one entity) and that it has many uses and to understand whether you are looking for healthy fish, kayaking, water skiing or anything else, we all care about the water the same way. She gave a long explanation about the non-native plants. The Eurasian Milfoil came into the lake back in the 1940-1950's and is spread thru fragmenting which is about 1 foot of growth per week. We need to get those out so the normal native plants are allowed to grow. The other non-native plant is starry stonewort which is like algae on the bottom of the lake. The wild celery that everyone sees was actually planted by the DNR a long time ago for water fowl, unfortunately it outgrows other native plants. There are two ways to control these plants, one is chemical control and the other is mechanical harvesting. Mechanical harvesting is messy and expensive since they can't get the root system. They have treated wild celery twice on the lake but are limited as to where they can treat it and they used the chemical to attack the root but remember that no eradication for permanence, it will need to be an annual maintenance. She also said to remember that there are always new issues coming into the lake like starry stonewort. Once a month after the surveys and evaluations, they will spot check and treat the lake. They usually let us know 1-2 days before. On the chemicals she also reminded us that she gets a budget from the township and works real close with them and that some of the chemicals they use aren't necessarily the cheapest products but they are the best for the lake.

Tentative August 9th for next survey and August 16th for follow up treatment. She handed out a lot of nice brochures for anybody to take that wanted them.

- Four members from Consumers Energy showed up at the meeting, Jim Hall, Rick Castle, Patrick Fowler and Jacob Smith. They were here to address the power outages on holiday weekends and around the lake. First of all, they said they have already started an extensive line clearing. There are a lot of Ash trees that while they are not in the easement when they fall, they fall into the easements and tend to take the energy down. They reminded everyone that on holiday weekends around the lake most cabins/homes are over capacity and the system is being overloaded. Some reasons were larger homes (used to be cabins), seasonal homes are now becoming permanent homes, adding trailers & such to lots that run electricity and of course, the big one, the heat index. They have two projects in the works right now. One is to change out our current isolator (transformer) to the largest one they have. The other is to add 2 more voltage regulators around the lake. The timeframe for this project is before year end if all goes well. A long term project is to work on bringing in more power lines around the lake but that requires our assistance with new easements and such. They said that takes the longest time as some people don't want them to put an easement in or they want something different done and that just eats up their time to get anything done. They did stay around after the meeting and took other questions.

50/50 Raffle winner is Marv Bartel who won \$31.50 Congrats to him. We also drew two names for Sage Lake Gear tumblers and those were won by Dick Gawne and Dan Thomas.

Meeting adjourned: 11:15 am

Respectfully submitted Sharon Green