Barron Lake Association

Meeting Minutes

Aug. 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. Present were Bruno Eidietis, president; Rick Marneris, vice president; and Tom Hable, treasurer. Twenty-seven residents attended the meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Tom Hable reported cash in bank is $51, 737.34. It is broken down into $45,726.44 in savings and $6,010.90 in checking.

**Secretary’s Report**

In absence of Debbie Floor, secretary, the minutes were read by Jodi Marneris. No corrections or additions were made. Minutes were approved.

**Weed Treatment**

Tom Hable reported a weed inspection was done approximately two weeks ago. Treatment will be done on or about Aug. 23 and this time it will be 2.63 acres. He said this is the lowest amount of acreage treated ever and weeds right now seem to be under control. First year we started treating, it was 36.7 acres and that number has been dropping every year.

**Augmentation Well**

Lake resident Fred Fornell, who has been overseeing the new augmentation well, said Todd Feenstra submitted information to Jeff Van Belle and the process is moving forward. He noted that EGLE has already given this project an ok. This all needs to be brought to the Cass County Commission and it will be a go. Fred said this well will have a 30-foot screen and can candle pumping 1,300 gallons a minute, as it is a very efficient pump. He also noted the company will build a small structure over the pump and will landscape the surrounding area. The cost of the project, estimated at $160,000 will be paid through resident taxes over five years.

Fred also noted the current well is turned off. There appeared to be some rocks and weeds that were obstructing the water flow and the resident who lives next to it complained that the water flow was eroding her sand and shoreline. Jeff Van Belle said he has gotten the permit and will be looking to fill the area with rock and sand to divert the water flow.

**Other Business**

* Bruno Eidietis asked Keith Stelter how the progress was coming along on the updated bylaws. In June, Keith offered the services of his wife, Tammie, whom he said is well versed and experienced in putting together bylaws. Bruno suggested it be brought up at the July meeting. It was and Keith said Tammie would do this. At the August meeting Keith responded to Bruno that they are “working through” the project, noting that he would like to get membership input into the bylaws using his Facebook page. Bruno said he was hoping to get them this month—or at least a starting point. If they are ready soon, Bruno will call a September meeting to discuss the updates.
* Bill Kasprzak, township supervisor, talked about the issues that are continuing with clogged pumps due to things going down to the sewers that shouldn’t be—most notably wipes. He said the township had to just pay $3,500 to the City of Niles for repairs to both pumps because they were totally clogged. He cautioned people to be aware that even if a product says it is flushable—it doesn’t mean it won’t clog sewer pumps. Resident Meghan Stoltz mentioned that a plumber she had at her house warned her of using anything more than 2-ply toilet paper as it is very absorbent and doesn’t break down as expected.
* Bill K. also was asked about the progress of the township removing the large rock near the sandbar. Bill said it is still on the agenda, but there is a staff shortage. He said he will be seeing the chief at an upcoming conference and will talk to him about getting that rock removed.
* A concern by resident Jim Cahill (who lives on Lake Shore Drive) was brought to the attention of the board through an email sent to the Barron Lake Association. Jim has been having a lot of problems with muskrats chewing through the wires on his boat and it has cost him several thousand dollars to have repairs made. He said he’s had as many as four of them swimming around his and a neighbor’s boats and one built a nest under his pontoon, which is grandson removed. He also said he has purchased repellents—one scented and one electronic, plus a trap, but with no effect yet. A questionnaire was emailed by the association asking others if they had any suggestions for Jim. Several people responded that they had steel cages and chicken wire cages built around their motors and have had no problems since. Terri Hable mentioned that her neighbor had a trapper come out and she will get that company name and information. Keith Stelter mentioned we are seeing more muskrat damage because less chemicals are being used in the wires. They are now made with soy—and that’s obviously something the muskrats are liking. Bruno asked that an email survey be sent to all the members asking if they have had problems and what their location is. If the association is to get involved, it’s important to know just where the problems are. Another resident said the season to trap muskrat is in the fall and winter.

Pat Farrell motioned to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Bruno Eidietis.

Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

By Jodi Marneris

On behalf of Debbie Floor, Secretary