

ROCK LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

www.rocklake.org

Minutes for September 17, 2018, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.,

City of Lake Mills City Hall, 200 Water Street, Lake Mills, WI 53551

- 1) **Call to Order** – 6:34 p.m.
Members present: Jim Colegrove, Wes Dawson, Mike Nesemann, Nathan Pyles, Stan Smoniewski, Susan Trier, Bonnie Nolan, Ralph DePasquale, Candace Diaz
Absent: Lianna Spencer
- 2) **Motion to accept the agenda** as modified made by Mike, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- 3) **Good News Minute** – meeting participants shared recent good news
- 4) **Secretary’s Report** – Motion to approve August 2018 minutes made by Nathan, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- 5) **Treasure’s Report** –
 - a) August financial statements had been distributed by Jim.
 - b) No new members signed up in past month. Discussion followed on recruiting.
 - c) Continued difficulties at Bank of LM getting started with program of laddered CDs. There are apparently several new regulatory requirements that need to be addressed. The Board reaffirmed its desire to continue this project and Jim, Wes, and Susan will pursue it.
- 6) **Public Comment(s)/Correspondence** –
 - a) Jim was sent a pamphlet by the [Groundswell Conservancy](#) which was passed around the Board.
 - b) School District Administrator Pam Streich contacted Wes to request a meeting with the Board. This will be scheduled.
 - c) The RLIA received a copy of the letter from the PIE to the DNR formally requesting authorization for their enlarged pier. This issue has been covered at previous meetings, but to summarize briefly: earlier this summer the PIE put in a pier with 15 boat slips which seems to exceed the limit by State regulations. This increase also apparently required a lengthening of the pier. The PIE claims they had been given telephonic authorization for this while DNR personnel say the alleged authorization was inappropriate and is invalid. The RLIA had already sent a letter to the Township, cc DNR, supporting enforcement of the existing regulations. Upon receipt of the PIE request, the DNR opened a 30 day public comment period and will accept requests for a public hearing for 14 days after they published the letter (that 14 days ended 9/19/18). Nathan made a motion to resubmit the original letter to the DNR. A discussion ensued, and it was pointed out that not only will this exception increase boat traffic on the lake, but also likely engender additional requests. In our recent survey, a majority of respondents felt excessive boat traffic was already a problem on the lake. Safety concerns were also raised given the increased boat traffic this will mean adjacent to Sandy Beach public beach. It was felt a more direct statement against authorizing this extension was called for and the motion was defeated. Susan made a motion to have the original letter edited to reflect a more direct stand, it was seconded and

passed. Susan, Mike, and Bonnie will come up with new wording which will be electronically distributed to the Board for review and voting.

- d) Wes received a thank you from the County for our willingness to fund 50% of the costs of the appraisal of a piece of land they wish to purchase. This land has important watershed implications.
- e) Susan received additional information from the Aquatic Invasive Plant initiative and raised the issue of starting a regular newsletter covering this issue. Wes advised this should be taken up by the appropriate committee and then presented to the Board. He felt that the Board seems to be continuously taking on new responsibilities or getting involved in new initiatives despite having difficulty handling those already on its plate. This led to a discussion of the chronic shortage of volunteers and how Board members seem to be getting stretched ever thinner. Ways to focus requests for help to members most likely to volunteer were discussed, including Susan's using a different email approach. Wes suggested that Committee Chairs help define precisely what their priorities are and how they mean to accomplish them in order to fully inform potential volunteers. He also requested that he be advised re any Committee meetings.

7) **Committee Reports**

- a) Water Quality – Nathan
 - i. Update on letter to farmers/strategy to kick off “healthy soils.” Nathan met with Michelle Scarpace, the new UW Extension Natural Resource Educator, who will be working with farmers and should be a valuable participant in this program.
 - ii. Patricia Cicero has indicated that Mud Lake will now be listed as an “impaired lake.” Although unfortunate, this may serve as a wake-up to people who are complacent re Rock Lake's health.
- b) Water Sampling.
Ralph volunteered to be the new Chair of this committee.
- c) Habitat.
There was some discussion about folding this into the Water Quality Committee. Tabled.
- d) Membership and Lake Recreation
Bonnie volunteered to Chair this committee.
- e) Public Outreach (Susan/Stan)
 - i) Update on lake info-graph. Tabled
 - ii) Plan to roll-out/publicity for lake management plan. Tabled
 - iii) New logo and promotional material. Tabled
 - iv) Capacity Building.
Discussion held re bringing in a facilitator. Session likely to be held as part of monthly meeting, probably February.
 - v) Weed control education. Tabled.

8) **Other Reports.**

- a) County. Patricia absent.
- b) JRLC. Stan
 - i) Patricia related that Clean Boats/Clean Water Initiative went well this year, with the City and Town each having 200 hours of monitoring at boat launches.
 - ii) Given all the rain we recently had, the new dam seems to be working well.
 - iii) Discussion continues between City and Town to ensure lake regulations are consistent, especially important for law enforcement.
 - iv) Poor construction practices leading to run off into lake was noted.

v) PIE pier proposal was discussed.

9) **Old Business**

- a) Water Sampling Needs. Tabled pending new Chair taking over.
- b) Fall Festival (10/7). Sign up sheet for volunteers to staff our table was distributed and discussion held re layout and thrust of effort.
- c) Application for small lake grant. Await Committee input.
- d) In-lake clean up. Deferred.

10) **New Business**

- a) DNR Water Quality Hearing. See PIE discussion (6c).
- b) Lake District formation. 2 former Board members raised this issue and requested assistance from the Board. A Lake District is an official organization with taxing authority. An attempt failed in the 90's and establishing one requires agreement of at least 50% of the riparian rights owners. This would entail a great deal of work. The Board awaits further plan details from the 2 individuals.
- c) Do we send thank 'yous' to riparian owners who have natural shorelines? Deferred to Committee.
- d) Ask the City and Town to sweep streets more than once as recommended by the DNR. Deferred to Committee.
- e) Leaf Campaign Update (Jim). My Fair Lakes Clean Lakes is now [Ripple Effects](#), which may require some changes in brochures. Paul Herman agreed to insert our Leaf Campaign brochure in the City utility bills but requested that it be kept to one page. Jim has done so and will submit information to the Leader for publication.
- f) Ice Out contest. This apparently has been sponsored by the Rotary in the past and it was agreed to defer to them.

11) **Adjourn** – Mike made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded, and passed at 8:10 p.m.

12) **Next Meeting:** Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m., Lake Mills City Hall