

Gifford Lake Association (GLA) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023

Attendees: President Doug Nienhuis; Vice President Mary Hefferan; Treasurer Linda Helder; Secretary Todd Schneider. Trustees: Jim Redd, Ron Roden, Adam Gordon, Mary Ann Cieszkowski. Picnic Co-Chairs: Adam Gordon, Brian Marton. Fish and Water Committee members: Jack Frick and Joe Surman; member Sally Schneider.

Meeting called to order by Doug Nienhuis at 10:03 a.m.

Opening Remarks

The Executive Committee thanked Doug and Barb Nienhuis for hosting the meeting on their newly-constructed patio and for providing refreshments. The committee welcomed Tom and Mandi Peterson and their family to Gifford Lake. The couple purchased the lake house formerly owned by Sherna Graham. On behalf of the association, Linda Helder will present the Petersons with a \$50 gift card as a welcoming gift and formally invite them to join the association.

2023 Year in Review

Picnic

Mary Hefferan and Jim Redd, 2023 Picnic Committee

The picnic was well received by the membership. Plans were made for 100 people to attend; 60 people actually attended. Melvin Belk Construction donated \$1,000 towards picnic expenses. The Lake Township Hall was reserved in case of bad weather, but was ultimately not needed. Mary Hefferan will forward her summary of this year's picnic to the 2024 picnic co-chairs Adam Gordon and Brian Marton. Ron Roden volunteered to ask the Morin family if they would be willing to host the picnic on their beach in 2024. The meeting attendees selected **Saturday, July 6, 2024** as the date for the annual picnic.

Fishing Contest

Jack Frick, Fish and Water Committee

This year's fishing contest ran from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Sixty fish were tagged by Jack Frick and Joe Surman. Nine tagged fish were caught. As prizes, ten dollar gift cards were awarded to the winners: Zach Barkel-Klug, Landon Nienhuis and to the grandchildren of Dave and Camille VanDyk—Clete VanDriel, Trigg VanDriel and Mark VanDriel. Four other tagged fish were caught but the anglers donated the gift cards back to the association. Data from the fish contest indicate the fish are growing at a normal rate and travel to all areas of the lake. Doug Nienhuis recommended that the fishing contest rules be developed into a flyer and distributed to members so that they can post it for any guests who may fish while at the lake. Mary Hefferan suggested the fishing committee develop the Biggest Fish Trophy to be awarded to the angler who landed the largest catch of the season.

Spongy Moth Control

Doug Nienhuis, coordinator

Spraying in 2023 was generally effective. However, its effectiveness may have been impacted by heavy rain 14 hours after spraying. Doug will ask Hatfield to modify the spray plan for improved coverage in 2024.

Clean-Up Weekend

Linda Helder, coordinator

Discussion focused on expanding Clean-Up Weekend to two weekends- one in the spring and one in the fall. The committee selected June 7-8, 2024 as the next Clean-Up Weekend. Another Clean-Up will be scheduled in late summer or fall.

Treasurer's Report

Linda Helder, Treasurer

The GLA treasury remains in the black. See Treasurer's Report section on mygiffordlake.com for details.

PLM Water Quality

Jack Frick, coordinator

Water clarity registered at five feet as measured by PLM during the August testing. This measurement is considerably less than the 32-foot reading in the spring. PLM said the extreme clarity in the spring would allow increased sunlight on the bottom of the lake, likely causing an algae bloom later in the summer. The current PH level is acidic, according to PLM. Muck sampling will be considered in next year's testing to help determine the cause of the most recent bloom.

Trustees Report

Trustees Mary Ann Cieszkowski, Jim Redd and Adam Gordon had no reports.

Ron Roden suggested a map with easy-to-read property owner names be developed.

Rental Policy

There was considerable discussion about preventing rentals of cottages on the lake. The GLA by-laws state the rental of lake properties is prohibited. Future lake cottages put up for sale could be shared with the association before contacting a realtor.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am. Next meeting TBA.

