

**Miner Lake Property Owners Association
Fall Meeting
August 31, 2013**

The Fall Meeting of the Miner Lake Property Owners Association was held on Saturday, August 31, 2013, at the Allegan Township Hall.

Call to Order: President Martin called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. There were 31 guests and 4 officers present. President Martin reminded the guests to sign the attendance sheet and pay their 2013 dues, if not done previously. He also reviewed the agenda items as follows: Lake Improvement Board Funds, Dam Maintenance, Neighborhood Road Speed, Township/City Recreation Plan and any other items which may be added.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 25, 2013 spring meeting were available for review. Motion was made by T. Skoglund and seconded by S. Martin to approve the May 25, 2013 minutes as presented. Motion carried. Minutes will be put on the website.

Lake Improvement Board/Water Quality Monitoring: President Martin informed the attendees that funds are available for water quality monitoring through 2014, but there is a need to pursue a new assessment to fund 2015 and beyond. When asked about the cost, it was stated that the amount for a possible 2015 assessment on property taxes is unsure at this time, but a better estimate would be available in the spring. There will be a review of past testing and costs to help determine the amount needed for future monitoring.

It was noted that the zebra mussels are much decreased, and there is not much milfoil. When asked about the introduction of shellcracker fish, it was stated that the Improvement Board decided not to pursue that.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Helen Setter reported that there is \$8,396.51 in the General Fund, \$1,764.77 in the East End Fund, and \$10.00 in the Sewer Fund, for a total of \$10,171.28. She also reviewed notices of the meeting which had been returned and the need for correct current addresses of property owners.

Dam Maintenance: President Martin reported that he has talked to Denise Medemar, Allegan County Drain Commissioner, about the control structure. He explained the structure and how it works. There has been a small leak in a corner for some time. It has been determined, after an evaluation by the Drain Commission Office, that the dam needs to be replaced. A permit from the DEQ has been received, and currently easements are being requested to allow access to the site to do the construction. There is no project estimate at this time, but a meeting is scheduled (possibly September 25) to obtain more information, and President Martin encouraged property owners to attend the meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that the following questions should be raised to the Drain Commission:

1. Is the replacement necessary?
2. How much will it cost?
3. Will it change the lake levels?

Neighborhood Road Speed: Concerns have been expressed about speeding on the private roads around the lake. It was stated that the lake association has no control over the speed limits or the authority to enforce any speed limits. After suggestions about possible speed bumps, signs, etc., it was agreed that property owners should remind guests to be considerate and courteous and mindful of their speed in light of children playing and others using the roads.

Township/City Recreation Plan: Vice-President Terry Skoglund, who serves as Zoning Chairman for Allegan Township, gave an overview of ongoing discussions from the past several months. He stated that the Allegan Township Recreation Plan has identified the purchase of the east end of Miner Lake as a possible project. The area is 113 acres with 3000 feet of shoreline. The proposed plan includes a nature preserve without water access and would be limited to daytime use. A grant application to the DNR is in process to acquire the property and is due by April 1, 2014. It would be a 75%-25% support process, and Skoglund stated that the township has the resources. When asked about how the public would access the property, it was stated that there is a public access lane which is actually in Watson Township. There was further discussion on various aspects of the project, including hunting. Skoglund reported that a public hearing to present the total recreation plan is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, at 7:00 p.m. at the Griswold Auditorium. He encouraged attendance and input at the hearing. Other projects being considered by the Recreation Plan are further development of the Allegan riverfront and biking/walking trails.

Oil/Gas Lines: President Martin reported on the farm at the west end of the lake which is owned by Timmerman. The property, which does not have frontage on the lake, is being considered for drilling for gas and/or oil. It is currently in the hands of the DEQ, and there may be hearings. The topic of fracking was discussed. Vice-President Skoglund explained the difference between vertical and horizontal fracking. The concern of lake property owners is surface contamination and run off into the lake. The situation will be followed and information provided when available.

Natural Gas: Question was asked about the possibility of natural gas. Several residents are interested in pursuing the possibility, and Helen Setter requested that those interested should contact her. There will also be a sign up sheet.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Merrill
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer