

**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

**Miner Lake Property Owners Association
Spring Meeting
May 24, 2014**

The Spring Meeting of the Miner Lake Property Owners Association was held on Saturday, May 24, 2014, at the Allegan Township Hall.

Call to Order: President Martin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. There were 30 guests and 4 officers present. President Martin presented the following agenda:

- Opening Business – Minutes and Treasurer’s Report
- Square Nail Farm Presentation
- Public Comments
- 2013 Water Quality Monitoring Report
- Miner Lake Improvement Board – Project Renewal
- Allegan Township Recreation Plan – East End
- Natural Gas
- 2014 Pontoon Parade
- Miner Lake Dam Replacements
- Election of Officers

President Martin recognized the importance of Memorial Day and honoring those who have served our country.

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer’s Report: Motion was made by Martin and seconded by Skoglund to approve the minutes of the fall meeting on August 31, 2013. Motion carried.

Treasurer Helen Setter gave the following treasurer’s report: East End Fund, \$1,764.77, Sewer Fund, \$10.00, and General Fund, \$8,886.44 for a total of \$10,661.21.

Square Nail Farm Presentation: Mark Gabala of Square Nail Farm presented a CSA (Community Sponsored Agriculture) proposed plan for weekly home delivery of farm fresh goods. He had distributed an information sheet showing some of the food products available and explained how the program would function, including buying shares and a point system. He also explained the growing seasons and organic products. He would use Scobie Produce of Wayland for products as well. He would like to get the program started this year with 15-25 families in the Miner Lake area and have the program running smoothly in 2015. Anyone interested can contact Mark Gabala by phone or email, which he provided.

Public Comments: Question was raised regarding sewer. President Martin gave an update on the history of the project and stated that there is no current proposal being offered.

2013 Water Quality Monitoring Report: President Martin presented information on the water quality monitoring by Progressive AE by showing slides of the various reports on water quality and plant survey. Phosphorus levels are relatively low and algae growth minimal. However the water clarity was reduced compared to 2012.

During the plant survey two exotic species were found in the lake, Eurasian milfoil and starry stonewort. All the information will be published on the website.

Miner Lake Improvement Board – Project Renewal: President Martin reported that there are 5 members on this board. They are Jane Waanders, representing Allegan Township, Max Thiele, representing Allegan County Commissioners, Denise Medemar, Allegan County Drain Commissioner, Bruce Carns, representing Miner Lake Property Owners, and Sam Martin, representative at large. Sam gave an update on the activities of the board and the purpose, which is to execute on projects that monitor and improve the overall water quality of Miner Lake. An assessment was charged to property owners in years 2000-2003 of approximately \$420 per parcel. The board partnered with Tony Groves of Progressive AE on an improvement plan to conduct water quality monitoring as well as projects to control weeds. Funds are running out from the original project, and we need to determine if there is interest in renewing the improvement project, which would result in a new multi-year assessment. Several expressed support and a desire to proceed further with defining a new project. Sam reported that the Improvement Board will meet on June 3 at the Township Hall. They will need to schedule at least 2 public hearings to review and comment on a renewed or revised improvement project. There will be more information on the website.

Allegan Township Recreation Plan – East End: Terry Skoglund gave background information on the east end project and provided a summary of the activity related to the potential for the east end to be part of the Allegan Township Recreation Plan. He stated that input is needed and that public hearings will be scheduled which will be posted on the website and put in the local newspaper. There are 113 acres in the area, 75 for educational benefit. There is interest in pursuing a state grant to establish a nature preserve with walking trails. The grant application has not been submitted yet because they need the public hearings and support. The deadline for the grant application is April 1 of each year. A suggestion was made to contact the Allegan schools, as well as other school districts, about the possibility of a nature preserve and seek their support. It was also suggested to attend the various school board meetings regarding this issue.

Natural Gas: President Martin stated that there continues to be interest in putting in natural gas. He requested that those interested contact the leadership and share comments on the website. Helen Setter presented information about how to show interest and to contact her for further assistance.

2014 Pontoon Parade: President Martin stated that if a pontoon parade is held on July 4, a volunteer is needed to coordinate the event. He explained how to register on the website and the duties of the coordinator. If there is no coordinator, there will be no parade.

Miner Lake Dam Replacement: President Martin gave some background information on the dam which was built about 1965. It has had some repairs since then but has also experienced significant decay and needs major repair. President Martin

presented slides giving information obtained from conversations with the Allegan County Drain Commissioner's office which has ultimate authority over the project. All of this information is available on the website, including a timeline of the tasks, some of which have been completed. It was also noted that the estimated cost for repair is \$312,000 and will undoubtedly require an assessment of the 269 parcels around the lake. It is expected that each parcel would be assessed approximately \$1,160 over a period of several years. More information will be forthcoming. President Martin also included the contact information for the Allegan County Drain Commissioner if there are other questions.

Election of Officers: A call for nomination of candidates for officers yielded only the names of the current officers. Motion was made and seconded to keep the current slate of officers for an additional two year term. Motion carried.

Helen Setter stated that she needs current names and addresses of residents.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Merrill
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer