

**Miner Lake Property Owners Association
Fall Meeting
September 3, 2016**

The Fall meeting of the Miner Lake Property Owners Association was held on Saturday, September 3, 2016, at the Allegan Township Hall.

Call to Order: President Sam Martin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. There were 31 guests and 4 officers present. He presented the agenda as follows:

1. Lake Improvement Board Report on Invasive Plants
2. Dam Project Update
3. Election of Officers

Approval of Minutes: Copies of the spring meeting were available for review. Motion was made by Tom Slocum and seconded by Sam Martin to approve the minutes of the spring meeting on May 28, 2016, as presented. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Helen Setter gave the following report:

Balance, May 28, 2016	\$11,321.87
Deposits	\$910.00
Total Available	\$12,231.87

Expenses	
Postage, spring meeting	74.80
Snacks, spring meeting	18.41
Website maintenance	96.26
Total expenses	<u>189.47</u>
Balance, September 3, 2016	\$12,042.40

Fund breakdown	
Sewer	10.00
East End	1,764.77
General	<u>10,267.63</u>
Total	\$12,042.40

Question was asked about the individual funds. President Martin explained each one, stating that the East End fund balance is primarily from the sale of t-shirts when the project was initiated approximately 7 years ago and pledges were made to attempt to purchase the property and preserve the area. However, there was not enough pledged to purchase the property.

Lake Improvement Board Report: President Martin explained the function of the Lake Improvement Board and that they contract with Progressive AE to assess and report on the overall quality and vegetation present in Miner Lake. He stated that specialists from Progressive AE visit the lake at least twice each year and perform a

series of tests and observations and compile reports for review. He then showed several 2015 reports from Progressive AE which will be posted on the website. Readings indicated good water quality. Plant survey results indicate a good diversity of aquatic plants. Two plant species of concern are Eurasian milfoil and starry stonewort. Additional monitoring for 2016 will give a better idea if a treatment program may be necessary.

There is a third plant, phragmites, an invasive species that is spread through wind and roots. It is fairly contained at the east end at the current time but may require treatment in the future.

Sam reported that the Lake Improvement Board voted to file for application for a permit to treat plants. The process takes 10 months so the Board felt that it should make application at this time.

Dam Project Update: President Martin gave background information on the dam project, including updates from the August 1 Board of Review meeting and Allegan County Board of Commissioners meetings on August 11 and August 25. Said information is posted on the Miner Lake website. The August 1 meeting was a hearing to adjust the assessment roll. At that time the assessment was approximately \$1,240 per parcel. However, it was reported at the hearing that there was a 33% increase in costs and that the updated assessment would be \$1,600 per parcel and \$800 for back parcels. The next step was for the Board of Commissioners to approve the roll, which was tabled at the August 11 meeting but approved at the August 25 meeting. Sam also stated that the Drain Commissioner's Office is seeking funding for the project and that construction is due to begin no later than November 1. Sam went to the Drain Office following the commissioner meetings and expressed several concerns about the projected road and also provided history regarding easements. The concerns related to the road are cost, potential flooding and maintenance. Sam further stated that it would probably be best to not pursue the project further which would only increase costs.

Len Dompke felt strongly that the association should not quit pursuing the project. He suggested that residents talk to neighbors and visit the website and specifically read the transcript of the August 1 meeting and read the comments from that meeting. He feels that the Drain Office has no regard for our money. He also urged residents to send signed letters to the editor of the Allegan County News. Sam further suggested writing the Drain Commissioner.

Joyce Roeder stated that a court injunction was needed to stop the project. There was considerable discussion regarding the ramifications, including cost to the association. An attorney would be needed to file an injunction which could nearly deplete the funds in the association account. President Martin stated that as President he could not recommend the funding needed for legal fees. But Joyce Roeder felt that the association needed to get involved for possible future projects.

There was further discussion regarding the projected road. Tom Lynch felt it could not be built on wetlands and explained the possible involvement of the DEQ if over 1/3 acre. Further concerns about flooding and who would maintain the road were expressed. Lynch stated that he had an audio tape of a meeting where the former county engineer stated that there was nothing wrong with the dam. He also has gathered several other documents as part of his research and advocacy related to the dam. He offered to make those available for Sam to put on the website. Note: There is a cache of some 18 documents provided by Tom Lynch now available on the website for review.

President Martin asked if the association wished to pursue the injunction. After further discussion, motion was made by Ron Merrill to have the lake association investigate and/or pursue the court injunction. Motion was seconded by Len Dompke. There were questions regarding authority and legal standing. From a show of hands, the motion failed.

Election of Officers: President Martin stated all four officers are up for election. There are 2 and 4 year terms. Because the election was missed last year, he suggested that the President and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer be elected for a 2 year term ending in the fall of 2018 and that the Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer be elected for a 3 year term ending in the fall of 2019. This would allow for a return to staggered terms. Tom Slocum moved that the current 4 officers be elected as outlined above. Motion was seconded and passed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Merrill
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

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