

CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOC. MINUTES SPRING 2015  
May 20, 2015  
Lutsen Town Hall

Board members present: Fred Morris, Bob Reid, Larry Mullen, Bob Hewitt, Louise Suomi, Julie Bittinger. Absent: Bill Dunn

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM.

Board president Fred Morris gave a fond Thank You to Larry Mullen on behalf of the Board and Members for his dedicated and appreciated work as out-going President of the CLPOA Board.

Introductions of Board and all attending meeting.

Ginny Storlie, Cook County Commissioner, presented news and information about Cook County including formation of a committee to address new Septic system regulations and the unique application in Cook County. Taking a comment from the floor from Lance Johnson, Ginny stated she will look into a boulder removal issue on Caribou Drive.

Forest Service Reps Chris Beal and Brianna Schuller presented on the Barker Project and how it will impact Caribou Lake. There are 8 objectives for this project: create young forest, increase diversity, improve moose habitat, enhance hunter walking area, long lived conifer planting, improve red and white pine plantations, upland birch and aspen upper story with choking balsam fir removal, fuel reduction. Along Caribou Lake's north shore an area will be thinned of firs since they choke out all other species and create a fire hazard. Bigger trees will be left, and a buffer will remain by the shore itself. Most areas will be replanted. Feedback is encouraged to help balance the scenic integrity with the above objectives. We will be contacted before any burning of debris piles.

Committee Reports:

\*Lake Quality by Larry Mullen. Larry and Irene Mullen continue to monitor Caribou by taking samples at 5 locations. Samples have been taken since 1975 which allow comparisons to be made on lake quality improvement since requiring septic upgrades and encouraging shoreline naturalization. Data on the last three years was presented and the phosphorous levels continue downward from 19.75 ppb to 14.55 ppb. within our goal of 15 or less. Chlorophyll levels are at good levels, and the water clarity is 6.7 feet with our goal being 6 feet.

\*CCCOLA by Irene Mullen. We continue working with other Cook County Lakes discussing for possible input to the 20 year Land Use Plan (which is being updated) and the Watershed Project for Lake Superior. Next meeting is June 12th.

\*Treasurer Report by Louise Suomi, treasurer. Balance of \$4483.85. Status remains stable and constant. Reminder to pay dues once and only once a year.

Old Business:

\*Going paperless for those with email addresses, so please get email addresses to CLPOA, and update when necessary.

\*Loon nest update- Karl Karst gave a report of the interesting time he had getting the loon nest on the lake immediately after ice out. To increase the chances the nest will be used it must be put on the lake as soon as ice out. However, this year the ice formed pockets that shifted and caused heroic efforts to get to the back bay near Bigsby where it was put. Also, Karl naturalized the platform with reeds to improve chances loons will use it.

\*School Trust land Exchange update by Fred Morris and Julie Bittinger. School Exchange Area on Caribou Lake detailed on map. The money generated from this land goes to the state of Minnesota for public schools, not local schools. While most land is logged for sustainability, some lakes have been designated for property development. When approached at a community meeting this winter, the head of this state program would not comment if Caribou has been designated, nor would he state if residents would be notified for input.

New Business:

\*Fred Morris and CLPOA Board get notices of variance requests. The Board would appreciate it if homeowners contact the Board in advance so we can work together - the CLPOA Board reviews the requests for lake water quality and shore integrity and wants to work with home owners in a team approach with Cook County.

\*Steve Bragg informed those attending that there will be a wedding on his dock July 25 with band, etc. It may get noisy.

Next CLPOA meeting is our Fall Meeting on Labor Day weekend - Saturday September 25, 2015.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50AM

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Bittinger  
Secretary