

CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2017 Lutsen Town Hall

Board members present: Fred Morris, Bob Reid, Louise Suomi, Julie Bittinger, Larry Mullen, Bill Dunn, Karl Karst, Tom Rider.

Meeting called to order at 9:36 AM.

Introduction of Board members and all attending (approx. 43 attending)

I. REPORTS AND BUSINESS—

A. Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting Minutes. Approved

B. Treasurer's Report by Louise Suomi: \$5,170 in account as of July 21, 2017.

C. CCCoLA Report by Irene Mullen: There will be a Lake Management Plan Workshop in the near future. Since the Caribou Lake Plan is now 9 years old and needs to be updated, a rep will attend the workshop. CCCoLA is working with lakes within our watershed to manage AIS. Good news from the MN state standards for water quality (25% improvement by 2025)- many lakes and rivers and streams in our watershed are meeting or are above standards. However, we must all remain vigilant due to climate change, logging, mining, ground water increase use, and culvert damage, which all have the ability to decrease water quality. Question from the floor on the culvert replacement by Caribou causing water level change to Caribou. Bill Dunn answered that there were no changes from the culvert due to its location. Karl Karst will follow up with a hydrologist. Anyone of the homeowners on Caribou can turn in data on Caribou Lake water quality, level, etc. to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (address available at the MPCA website).

D. Water Quality on Caribou Lake by Larry Mullen: Information collected by Larry and Irene in the same 5 sites used since the 1970's. We have consistently seen continued improvement in our water since the septic upgrades mandated from 2005-2012. (We are at full septic compliance from a 75% failure level in 2005) as measured by levels of phosphorous, chlorophyll, clarity, oxygen and calcium. in addition, Larry reported that Spiny water flea was not detected.

E. Comments from Commissioner Storlie: Commissioner Storlie was attending Pike Lake Annual meeting and could not attend. She did email a report. Cook county is working on the levy and holding public meetings. Information is available on the Cook County website. Commissioner Storlie thanked the CLPOA for all we do to improve the quality of Caribou Lake.

F. Miscellaneous Reports:

1. Thank you from Fred Morris for all who helped with the Hwy 61 clean up. 21 bags were collected. 20 people attended. The cookout following pick up allowed for a time to socialize. Fred encouraged everyone to be part of this fun event next year on the Friday of Labor day weekend.

2. Public landing and AIS issues: Larry reported on the boat inspections that are taking place at the public landing on weekends. 5 inspectors are paid by the county, and CLPOA trained 7 people to volunteer to increase the hours covered. We can use 10 to 20 more volunteers to cover all weekend hours. Thank you to these 7 volunteers!! This boat inspection is important

because within Cook County 16 lakes have spiny water flea, 6 have purple loosestrife, 7 have rusty crayfish (including Pike Lake near Caribou), 1 has chinese mystery snail. Of the watercraft inspected this summer 97% were from Minnesota, 86% from Cook County, 45% were fishing boats, 42% were canoes and kayaks, 13% were pontoons, and 1 houseboat.

3. Fish survey by DNR: Data was presented by Larry Mullen. This will be posted on our website. In 1951 69 walleye were caught in the DNR nets, in 1971 only 30 walleye were caught and in 2017 a mere 5 walleye were caught. Proving what everyone has witnessed, it is harder to catch walleye.

4. Public landing: Karl Karst has contacted the DNR about repair to our landing to fix the deep drop-off after the concrete pad caused by power loading. boulders or more padding can be added, but power loading cannot be restricted. Karl asks all boat owners to voluntarily not poverload on to trailers.

5. Slash pick up October 2 by Firewire. A reminder email will be sent with details. Cutting is prohibited in shore zone with the caveat that a reasonable amount can be removed to get a view, but clear cutting is not allowed.

6. Variance Issues by Fred Morris: 2 variance issues have come before the County this year. The CLPOA Board does oppose some variances when we feel lake water quality and living quality would be compromised. We did sue over an after the fact variance request which we withdrew after 2 months. The CLPOA has gained accountability with Cook County. PLEASE contact the CLPOA Board if you're seeking a variance to build within the setback of 100 feet. We will work with owners and the county inspector Bill Lane to find solutions to keep our water and lake healthy. Remember that the property owner is the responsible party, not the contractor. CLPOA is committed to remaining vigilant. Cook County does assess fines and does order that structures be removed for violations.

G. Nomination of Board Members: no nominations from the floor. Nominated for 2 year terms by the nominating committee- Fred Morris, Louise Suomi, Julie Bittinger, Bill Dunn, and Larry Mullen. All approved.

II. PROGRAM : CLPOA early days by Don Sivertson and Bill Dunn.

Don entertained the audience with great memories of a turning point in Caribou Lake history when the CLPOA was started in an effort to preserve a quality of life for those on Caribou Lake. In 1976 Sivertson, Bob Dunn, and Neihart banned their neighbors together to fight a proposed public picnic area on Caribou Lake. The CLPOA went on to fight for various environmental issues including massive spraying vegetation under power lines, water quality issues, septic issues, and land use issues to maintain the "natural" feel on Caribou Lake. Others mentioned as important advocates were Sandy Butler and Tim Nelson.

Bill Dunn finished the program by reading the Obituary for his father Bob Dunn who passed away this year. It was a moving tribute to a remarkable man who devoted his life to the preservation of the Minnesota environment. Bob Dunn was a giant and pioneer in our state on these issues.

We on Caribou Lake owe our gratitude to these dedicated people, and our continued thanks to all involved property owners who work to maintain continued water quality and proper land use. The CLPOA has accomplished much and continues to be vigilant. WE can accomplish so much when we focus our energy, passion, timing and commitment!

Motion to adjourn at 11:55 am

