



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2020

Ron Ray, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, Wednesday, June 24, 2020. The meeting was held via internet conferencing software ZOOM. Along with Ron, present at the meeting were Mark Warisch, Darryl Jarombek, Mary Lou Hoffer, Jeanne Mehlop, Charlie Clark and Bill Karsten. Tom Miller and Dan Fitch were not in attendance.

The May 27, 2020 board meeting minutes were reviewed and a motion was made to accept; seconded and approved.

Bill gave the GLA financial report which was accepted and approved.

There was discussion regarding the property lots that have recently been sold on the north side of the lake. It was thought that these new property owners might like to learn about the Garfield Lake Association and what we represent. Ron said he would look into finding the names of these individuals and we will contact them.

Charlie gave us an update on his message to the 15 individuals who have volunteered to install the Zebra Mussel Sampling tubes from their dock. He has contacted them reminding to get their pvc tubes in the water. He will follow up on a routine basis and check in with them making sure the tube is in the water and any updates on their observation.

We had a great discussion on the GLA website and all felt it was very well done and would be an excellent way to communicate with both our members and non-members. We encourage all members to share a story, a photo or comments about the lake. To do so, please go to the website:

<https://garfieldlakeassociation.com/>

and go to the comment page for any input or photos you might have. The Board agreed that we should have the names; e-mail address and phone numbers of each Board member. We also thought we should put more information about the details of the AIS samplings including detailed results of the phytoplankton and zooplankton studies the DNR are doing on Garfield. As our efforts to provide more input to the website increases we may at some time try to get some data on the frequency of the use of it. Bill will look into those costs. Mark suggested we need to think about how to get people to “think about how to start going to the site”. We all agreed and will discuss this at the next meeting.

Due to the Corona Virus issues it was agreed that the GLA will not participate in Laporte Days this year. We do intend to participate in future years as this is our best way to fund the AIS efforts of the lake.

Funds from our GLA booth in 2019 have helped fund AIS testing costs as well as AIS boat landing inspection.

Ron shared that he has written a letter from our GLA to the DNR Commissioner regarding our support of the Sunfish Catch Reduction initiative that they are working on. The DNR will pick 250 lakes in Minnesota where they will reduce the catch limits for the purpose of increasing the size of the sunfish caught. We have already heard back from the Park Rapids Fisheries Supervisor thanking us for our input. We encourage all our members and non-members to visit the DNR website on this issue and take the on line survey.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fish/sunfish/index.html>

Ron will put together some thoughts on how our GLA can get more people and other organizations in the Laporte are to be aware of this opportunity ; go look at that DNR website and take the survey. We believe the DNR will make the decision on which 250 lakes in Minnesota will be part of this study sometime this winter.

Ron also noted that in his letter to the DNR Commissioner he thanked them for “getting a Conservation Officer assigned to Garfield sometime this fall. However, Mark pointed out that this might not happen as there are fewer CO’s graduating this year and the CO training will stop for 2021 as it is done in Camp Ripley and the DNR will not be able to use those facilities in 2021. Bill agreed to contact the person in charge of our area, CO Captain Pat Znajda, from Bemidji, to get a better understanding of what is going on.

Ron shared with the Board the request for Hubbard County Environmental Services that each Hubbard County Lake Association submit their “best estimate” for the amount of 2021 supplemental watercraft inspection hours our lake will want to purchase for 2021. They want this by July 13, 2020. This is in preparation for an expected budget reduction the state and county may have due to the Corona Virus. Currently the state provides the county with 192 hours of boat launch inspection. The GLA, along with our 2 townships and City of Laporte provide another 250 hours, for a total Garfield budget of 442 hours. We all agreed in that we do not have any reason to change from what we receive for this year, so, we will submit the same for next year. We need to stay close to this issue as AIS boat inspection has been shown to be the most effective way to stop the transmission of AIS to or from a lake.

Mark reviewed the status of the 2 loon nests put out this spring. Both have been pulled from the lake without being used. We have noted that there are at least 3 pair of loons on the lake; two with twins and one single chick. There does seem to be a 4th set still on the nest. We have marked the location of these nests and use them to help us place our nest for next year.

There will be a July 4th Boat Parade this year and we are putting flyers out at several points around Laporte. All boats are welcome and we will meet at the beach at 4:00 pm. We will send notices to our GLA members.

Darryl reviewed the thought of having GLA windsocks available for our members. He has contacted several suppliers and it looks like initial cost would be \$20. He is also looking into a few other local suppliers as well as some type of flag.

As Tom was unable to attend we postponed our discussion on ways to reduce the number of small Northern Pike in our lake. Perhaps a contest of some type and or encouragement for ways to pickle them.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 22 at 6:30. We adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully, Mary Lou Hoffer, Secretary