



Meeting Minutes - September 23, 2020

The Garfield Lake Association held its monthly meeting via Zoom. Those in attendance were: Charlie Clark, Dan Fitch, Jeanne Mehlhop, Tom Miller, Ron Ray, Mark Warisch.

Ron called the meeting to order, and last month's minutes were approved. We also approved the financial statement that Bill had prepared.

Ron informed the board that letters have been sent to new property owners on the north side of Lake Garfield, but we have not heard back from them.

Charlie reported that we have a total of 22 Zebra Mussel detecting tubes placed on docks on the lake. Ten tubes have been pulled so far this fall and reported clean of Zebra Mussels.

A reminder will be sent to GLA members reminding them to remove, check, and clean their Zebra Mussel tubes, and then report their finding to Charlie. We will also ask that the homeowner do an inspection of their docks and any water placed equipment, looking for the presence of zebra mussels. An additional reminder that fall is a good time to pump septic tanks will be included. Ron will send the memo.

The final water quality test for the year was done by Darryl and Charlie on Monday rather than Sunday due to high winds. Ron and Mark agreed to compose a record of water quality history, using Mark's 20 years of data. We hope to provide our membership historical points of reference on lake clarity using the Garfield Lake website. We will also see if we can get the history of the phytoplankton and zooplankton studies the DNR has done as well as the DNR fish survey they just completed.

In August, Bill was informed by Bemidji DNR CO Captain Pat Znajda that Garfield will be getting a CO by the end of the year, after their 16 weeks of on the job training. We have not been notified of any change but will do a follow up later in this year.

Discussion was held regarding the green water and "slime" Garfield Lake has this fall. There are numerous reasons for this occurrence; however, we know that increased use of lawn fertilization could be a contributor. Charlie and Jeanne will research possible causes of this green water and "slime" and share their findings with our members and other homeowners along the shore line. This information, including DNR and county recommendations, will be placed on the GLA website and Garfield Lake Facebook page this fall. Next spring a reminder, including more detailed information and photos, will be made available to all lakeshore owners.

Regarding the removal of the over-abundance of smaller Northern Pike in Garfield Lake, Tom agreed to continue to work on this, encouraging members to keep the smaller Northerns by providing videos on easy and quick ways to clean and prepare them.

Darryl had reported that using a local sewing supplier the cost for a possible GLA flag, 14 x 20 would be \$25 and a minimum order quantity of 18. Several board members would like to buy one or more. Perhaps these can be used as samples so we can show our members.

A letter from the GLA will be mailed to three Laporte organizations this week, asking for their support in requesting a change of the Sunfish limit on Garfield Lake, with the end purpose to increase the size of Sunfish. We believe the DNR is seeking lakes willing to change the limit from 20 to 5, and provides a survey on their DNR website. However, the August 28 paper "Outdoor News" had an article listing lakes picked for the project, and Garfield Lake was not one of the lakes mentioned. We want to find out if the lakes for this study have already been picked but not announced. Therefore, Tom will check with the DNR office in St Paul and ask who would have this information. Charlies will ask Sharon Natzel, President of HC COLA and Mark will discreetly inquire with Caleb. Charlie noted that the DNR is posting "on line virtual meetings" on this topic. If our members are interested in attending one of these meeting the information is at: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fish/sunfish/index.html>

The Board expressed a big thank you to the City of Laporte for its continued donation of \$1,250 to help with the cost of AIS inspections in 2021. GLA AIS program already has the support of Hart Lake Township and Lakeport Township for 2021. Mark will attend the Hart Lake meeting, and Dan will attend the Lakeport meeting. It is important that we receive help with funding, because of state budget monies going to AIS inspection are expected to be reduced due to COVID-19 economics.

We continue to put a great deal of lake data and information on the Garfield Lake Association website: <https://garfieldlakeassociation.com/> and encourage our members to use the web site for information about our lake. We thought it would be helpful if we put some signage about the Garfield Association Website at the boat landing. Ron will work with others and review ways we could do that.

Loon nests placement for next spring was discussed. It was agreed that we will make a map that will show where the actual nests have been over time which will help us pick future spots to place the 3 GLA'S nests we will have in 2021. Tom has some ideas on materials we can use on the 2 wooden nests.

A short discussion was held about the value of a professional vegetation survey of the lake and where we can receive advice about what vegetation is in the lake and if there should be any concern. Several lakes in the Park Rapids area have used the services of RMB labs and found them worthwhile. It was agreed that Ron contact RMB labs and ask for a Zoom conference with Board members regarding the specifics of a survey; its value and costs for 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on October 21, 6:30 p.m.