



Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2020

The Garfield Lake Association held the routine Board of Directors meeting via Zoom on November 18, 2020. Those in attendance were Mark Warisch, Jeanne Mehlhop, Bill Karsten, Marylou Hofer, Dan Fitch, Darryl Jarombek and Ron Ray. Absent were Tom Miller and Charlie Clark.

The minutes of the September 23, 2020 BOD meeting were approved.

Bill gave us a review of the GLA financial status and we voted to approve his financial statement. We had a discussion on the thought that any new member joining after September 1, 2020 would be considered as a member for both 2020 and 2021. We voted on that and it was approved. This will be out policy from now on. We have 1 new member this fall.

Charlie reported that no adult zebra mussels were found in any of the 22 zebra mussel sampling tubes that were collected by our membership this fall. If any of our members would like to participate in this sampling effort in 2021 please let us know. The GLA will give you the small 10 inch long, PVC tube and the homeowner hangs it under their deck, about 1 foot off the bottom. We ask that the homeowner check this tube once a month throughout the summer and fall looking for the presence of adult zebra mussels. The tube comes out in the fall when you pull your dock.

Charlie's report also showed that no homeowner reported any adult zebra mussels on any of their water equipment or docks this fall. All good news!

Mark researched and found the MN DNR data on Garfield surface water transparency; phytoplankton and zooplankton levels and plant species and given it to Ron who will summarize it. Bill will put this summary in our GLA Web site. Our target date to get this available to our members is January 15-30 2021. We hope that this information will provide our membership with historical baseline data on the clarity of Garfield water. Ron took some pictures of the green slime that appeared on the lake in late fall and will use them to make our membership aware of negative impacts of using the wrong or too much fertilizers on lawns and or neglected septic tanks. We see the role of the GLA as one of helping our membership keep and stay informed on these issues.

We had discussion on how we might remind our membership the importance of pumping their septic tanks every 2 or 3 years and agreed to follow up with some specific ideas and information. We also discussed how we might provide homeowner information on best areas to put "rip rap" (rock on the shoreline) and the use and availability of "seeded shoreline" hay bales which help curb erosion. We think some of these projects might be partially funded by the county and will look into how that works.

Bill reported that we still will not know until the end of December or January if Garfield Lake has a Conservation Officer (CO) assigned. We have not had one for several years and there is concern that some might be taking advantage of that. Bill will contact Bemidji Captain Znajda in January.

Darryl reported that we have designed a 14x20 inch GLA flag for those GLA members who wish to purchase them. We have a minimum order of 20. He has made digital pictures available and we will send them, along with an order sheet, to our membership. The cost for this flag is \$25.

Somehow we lost Mark on the Zoom connection and we were unable to get an update on the latest of the DNR Sunfish Reduction program. We will, however, continue to communicate our approach to having Garfield be one of the lakes chosen for 2021 and or 2022.

Boat launch AIS inspection Funding was discussed and we voted unanimously to join with the County, City of Laporte, and Hart Lake and Lakeport Townships to fund the inspection effort for 2021. Our share of this effort is \$1,250 for 2021. We are concerned that the State of Minnesota will reduce the funding for this AIS inspection effort in 2021 due to financial reductions caused by the corona virus. Dan has agreed to attend the Lakeport 2022 budgeting meeting in January 2021 and Mark will do the same for Hart Lake township. We need to follow up in January to make sure the checks get written and sent to the county.

Ron thought there could be some value in advertising our GLA website at the boat landing and will present details of that in the March 2021 meeting. He also will follow up the cost – value analysis of having an outside firm do a vegetation study on Garfield and or can we find local individuals who could be trained on more common vegetation presence using the “Eyes on the Water” program.

Tom donated some real good material for the loon nests and we all agreed that we will put in 3 nests on the water in 2021. We will rebuild the oldest one and recover it with the material Tom provided. We also need to “reweight” the 2 homemade buoys and find a way to show our membership where on the lake these nests will be placed for 2021.

There was no new business and the next meeting was set for January 20, 2021, at 6:30pm. This meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marylou Hofer, Secretary