



## Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2021

The Garfield Lake Association held the routine Board of Directors meeting via Zoom on January 20, 2021. Those in attendance were Mark Warisch, Jeanne Mehlhop, Marylou Hofer, Dan Fitch, Darryl Jarombek, Charlie Clark, Darry Jarombek and Ron Ray.

The minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting were approved.

Bill had prepared a current GLA financial status which was voted on and approved. His summary of GLA Membership now shows 51 members. We discussed the increase in the number of property owners now on Garfield as it is increasing due to the sale of lots on the north east corner of the lake and division of the former resort on the north. We believe there are or will soon be 115 properties and will continue to make efforts to introduce them to the Garfield Lake Association and our Mission to “protect and enhance the quality of the lake”.

We discussed two different publications we would like to share with our membership, both dealing with Lake Stewardship. Mark described one, with lots of information from Hubbard County covering ways to reduce or control phosphorus and or other pollutants and many other ways to manage what goes into the lake. Ron discussed one from the U of Minnesota on how to determine the frequency of pumping your septic tank. Ron will get copies of both to the Board members in the next week. Our purpose is to help educate our members on ways to be good Stewards of the Lake. .

It was brought up that our new Conservation Officer; Mike Cross has been on our lake many times this winter and very pleased to be here. It was also noted that Caleb Shavlik is the acting fishery supervisor for Hubbard County. Calub has also been on our lake many times.

We had a significant discussion on the seemingly increasing presence of green algae on Garfield and want to look further into where it might be coming from. Is it farmland runoff and or some other phosphate heavy runoff use? Ron shared pictures that he had taken in the fall. Mark has already worked on the data from the DNR showing water transparency. We will summarize that and make it available to our membership using the GLA web site. We will continue to work on this and communicate our findings with our membership.

We had GREAT NEWS as Mark shared that Garfield Lake is on the list by the DNR requesting senior DNR sign off for Garfield to be one of the lakes to get greater restrictions on the Sunfish catch. It has been show on several studies that by limiting the number of sunfish that can be take will increase significantly the size of the sunfish in the lake. It will also increase the population of sunfish in the lake as “big fish bred big fish”. We are hoping that the final approval of these recommended lakes, of which Garfield is now one, will be approved later in 2021 and go into effect in 2022. We thank the members who went to the DNR web site and provided personal input on this issue. Nice job Mark!

We discussed that the end of January, 2021 all the funds for the 2021 Garfield AIS Boat Inspection must be received by Hubbard County. Mark, Dan and Bill have been working hard on this as this effort and the contributions from ourselves (GLA), the City of Laporte, Lakeport Township and Hart Lake Township effectively double the AIS inspection hours on Garfield. We will look into it this week and get back to all.

On a comical side Ron asked the Board what the heck he was supposed to do on the GLA-City of Laporte AIS sign at the boat landing. He had forgotten. Several members of the Board reminded him that we want to get some decals for that sign encouraging people to go take a look at our GLA Web Site. We encourage all to use it and see "what's going on" around Garfield. Here is that website:

<https://garfieldlakeassociation.com/about-us/>

Ron said he now remembered and will make that happen before next spring.

We had good discussion on the cost; possible use and value of a professional vegetation study on Garfield. Could this be one way to help pinpoint any abnormal entry into the lake of phosphorus or other pollutants? Why do we think the transparency of Garfield is going down? Even though the DNR does routine vegetation surveys would there be value in obtaining one with more focus? We will put that outline together and make a decision within the next 2 or 3 months.

We need to rebuild one of the old loon nests that we bought for \$20 last year but can reuse the large old 6 inch pvc floats on the new one. Ron did the last one and will rebuild this one with the material left over and new materials that Tom supplied. We hope to have 3 nests on the water this spring including the new aluminum one we got late spring 2020.

Darryl reported that Cool Threads are almost done with the 23 GLA flags we ordered for delivery in 2021. While there we several issues to deal with, he kept moving ahead and he hopes to have them available sometime this week or the first week of February. We are excited to see how they came out.

One of our members asked us why the City of Laporte does not keep the portable outhouse open and available in the winter. We believe it is owned by the City and well used during spring, summer, and fall. It possibly might be used more in the winter. If any of our members have input on this please call one of the Board members. Our phone numbers are listed on the web site. We will look into this with the City.

The next meeting will be held 6:30pm, February 17, 2021. This meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.