



Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2021

The Garfield Lake Association held a Board of Directors meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Those in attendance were Mark Warisch, Bill Karsten, Dan Fitch, Tom Miller and Ron Ray. Absent were Jeanne Mehlhop, Darryl Jarombek, Charlie Clark and Marylou Hofer.

The minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved.

As there have been no financial transactions over the past month so there was no need for Bill to neither prepare nor review the current GLA financial status. All remains the same as January 20, 2021.

We discussed the value in establishing a “STEWARDSHIP OF THE LAKE PROGRAM” with a couple of routine efforts to advise and keep our membership informed about ways to “Keep Garfield Lake Healthy”. One thought was to publish, 3 times per year a publication of information about “KEEPING YOUR SEPTIC TANK HEALTHY”. Ron had arranged for all BOD members to review a University of Minnesota publication called: “Septic Tank Pumping Frequency Guidelines”. It is a check sheet where one can mark various levels of activity and use of one’s home and establish the frequency to have the tank pumped. [U of M Septic Tank Frequency Check sheet link is here.](#) We will also put a copy on the GLA web site and send a separate notice on how to use the check sheet. It is simple to fill out with specific and “layman’s advice” on this topic.

We will also, thru the year, publish other County and State information about septic as well as the proper and safe uses of fertilizers and their impact on the lake. Again, we hope this type of information is of value in how we can all be Good Stewards of the Lake.

Tom suggested that we put together some type of “Laporte Mail Box” where non- GLA members can see some of the information we are providing our members. Perhaps, along with GLA BOD minutes we could print our information on the benefit of keeping small northernns or impacts of the improper use of fertilizers on the lake might be available. He will work on the details of this idea and get back at the next meeting.

Ron gave a summary of his communication with RMB Labs on his look into why Garfield turned so green last fall. I have attached a couple photos that I took September 24, 2020 on the north east side of the lake. We are working with RMB Labs to get an idea if this is “a normal” condition or is the fall algae bloom getting worse. We have heard from several members that they think the algae is getting worse and we are trying to get history and data to answer the question. [We found this linked Startribune article on the subject.](#) We are also looking into the value and cost of doing a “early AIS detection check” in the areas close to the boat launch.



Mark informed us that Garfield is still in the running for being selected to be one of the lakes for 2022 where the sunfish limit would be reduced. We all believe and the science shows that this would have the effect of increasing the size of the sunfish that are caught. Big fish breed big fish. He will check with the DNR on that status as well as when the 2020 DNR Fish Survey will be available to look at. We think it is in May.

Bill reminded us that our GLA needs to be represented at both Hart Lake and Lakeport Township meetings this March, 2021 and request both Townships for funding for the AIS Boat Launch Inspections done during the summer. Mark agreed to go to the Hart Lake one (March 16, 7:30pm) and Ron agreed to attend Lakeport (March 9, 7:00pm). These donations by these Township account for roughly 50% of the funding for this additional inspection for our lake. We encourage our membership to personally be aware of that and thank those Township representatives when they see them.

We discussed our GLA web site and how there is a great amount of information and wonderful pictures of Garfield and wildlife around the lake.

We will put out 3 loon nests this season. To do that we will need to rebuild a wooden one. Mark already has the 3rd large buoy notifying boaters of the nest (a DNR requirement). Mark will pick the spots for 2021 and we will develop a map of some type to show it to our membership.

GLA flags are in and you can pick them up at Dan's.

Mark has raised the point of how hazardous lead fishing gear is to wildlife. However, Tom pointed out the significant cost of alternative materials. Mark has written a short article about it and we talked about how we can share that hazard with our members and possibly Take A Kid Fishing. Perhaps we can help those kids with some type of fishing gear contribution. Bill agreed to contact a fishing tackle supplier looking for donations. Bill agreed to talk with our new CO Mike Cross about where the DNR is going with the lead issue.

While it is too early to know how we are going to have our GLA Annual meeting Tom suggested we might consider having it outside at the Laporte pavilion. We could do both an in person meeting as well as provide an internet link via "hot spot" for a zoom meeting. We will look into this.

Bill showed us a letter from Hubbard County Soil and Water saying for those interested in testing for Nitrate levels in their well water, they will be doing a special collection for your home samples at the Laporte store and 2 other local locations on April 1, 2021. [We have provided a link to their website](#) and will be sending a future message for the special April 1st pick up program.

Ron pointed out that we have 3 Board members whose term expires at our 2021 Annual Meeting, Jeanne, Bill and Charlie. We are always looking for individuals who would like to help “Keep Garfield Lake Healthy” and work with local people and organizations to do so. Please let any one of our Board members know if you have an interest in helping do this.

The next BOD meeting will be held 6:30pm, Wednesday, March 17, 2020. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

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