

St. Helen Lake Association (SHLA)
Saturday, May 8, 2021

DRAFT Annual Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance - The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President John Bawol. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board members present: John Bawol, Renee' Keppen, Janet Bawol, Cathy Taylor, Brian Schultz, Connie Barton, and Mike Trent. Dave Hodnett and Gwen Baughman were absent.

Additions to the Agenda – Donation to Helping Hands for their upcoming 5k event.

Approval of September 5, 2020 meeting minutes – Jim Baylerian made a Motion to approve, Cheryl Henderson supported. With no discussion, the MOTION carries.

Treasurers' Report – Renee gave an overview of expenses in the past year. She noted the SHLA was going to participate in the West Branch Christmas parade but as it turned out, the event was canceled so the money was returned. Since the SHLA hosted no events in 2020, there were no large expenses. John briefly discussed the fishing contests which the Minnow Bucket hosts through the year. If winner was SHLA member then an additional \$50 was awarded. A motion was made by Steve Besedich to accept the treasurers report, supported by Linda Pinkos. The MOTION carries.

Membership Report - Janet Bawol updated the group as there are currently 100 paid individual memberships and 20 businesses thus far for 2021. This is a reduction of approximately 30% in individual memberships, however, it is early in the year so hopefully through some events the SHLA is hosting and other membership generating ideas, the number of members will increase throughout the year. Mike Trent mentioned some ideas for generating memberships such as businesses in St. Helen could sell memberships and give the employees some incentive for selling the memberships. Possibly provide each member with a free decal, selling t-shirts, hosting a golf outing, etc. Mike will head up a membership committee to investigate these and other ideas.

President's Report -

i. Continuation as President – John inquired of the membership if they feel as though he being recently elected as Supervisor of Richfield Township is a conflict of interest as President of the lake association. There was no opposition to this inquiry. He noted that should something come up between the SHLA and the Township, he would abstain from voting. Mike Trent made a MOTION that John remain as President of the SHLA, Brian Schultz, supported. The MOTION carries.

ii. Roscommon County Sheriff

- a. Boating Laws and Q & A – Sheriff Ed Stern and the Roscommon County, Seasonal Services Supervisor reviewed the marine laws and services, and also touched on ORV trail services and laws.
- b. Alcohol and Boating – It was noted that the driver of a boat can have a drink while driving their boat but there is a BAC limit and to be aware of this. The Roscommon County Marine Patrol is going to try to be on Lake St. Helen every weekend in the summer. Should a watercraft driver be harassing another boater, it is recommended to get the MCI number and contact the Sheriff office.
- c. Age Requirements and Distance from shore were also discussed.

iii.. Commissioner Bob Schneider - Commissioner Bob Schneider reported the lake level today was 6.65 which is 4 3/4 over the summer level. He noted the 22-year average is 6.75. The dams in Roscommon are in good shape.

v. Fish Stocking – Lake St. Helen has not had any fish stocked since June 2018. John has a call into the DNR to see if/when they plan on stocking this year.

vi. Help on Projects – John advised that occasionally, help is needed with projects which the lake association hosts. It would not be a lot time and may consist of physical help with lake association events. Any assistance with events would be most appreciated.

Old Business - None

New Business

i. Charlton Heston Academy (CHA) scholarship – This is the 3rd year which the Lake Association has offered a scholarship to seniors at CHA. However, this year, because of virtual learning, no senior applied for our scholarship. Janet spoke with reps at CHA who indicated they sent the materials to the seniors but like other seniors in Roscommon County, did not apply for scholarships this year. SHLA will again offer it to the class of 2022.

ii. Bluegill Festival Parade – Scheduled for Saturday, June 12. In past years the SHLA has had an entry designed by the art class at CHA. This year because of the virus situation, the art class would not be able to participate. John stated asked if anyone wished to construct a float to advise the Board.

iii. Family Fun Fest – Scheduled for Saturday, July 24. The SHLA will go forward with hosting the event this year. As in past years, there will be a fishing contest, beach games, cardboard boat races, food, music and more. Work will begin on this event in June.

iv. Boat Wash – Scheduled for Saturday, August 7. In association with Michigan State University, the SHLA hosts a boat wash at the Township Launch site. The boat wash is for boats going into and coming out of Lake St. Helen. MSU students are there to help with the wash and to educate residents and boat owners about invasive species possibly on boats that can be spread into the lake. John will be there along with anyone else who would like to volunteer.

v. Lighted Christmas Parade – The SHLA has hosted this event the past 3 years. This year, the St. Helen Chamber of Commerce stated that they would like to host their Christmas events on the Saturday following Thanksgiving to go along with Shop Local Saturday. Because no SHLA board members are available that weekend, the chamber decided to developed a committee which will host the parade this year along with their usual Christmas activities for the kids at the Township Hall. The Lake Association had previously stated that if the parade was held on the first weekend in December, as in previous years, that they would be happy to coordinate it.

vi. Helping Hands donation – This year, Helping Hands is hosting a 5k on Saturday, July 10 and is looking for donations to their event. Lisa Byrd made a MOTION to donate \$65.00 to this event, Jim Baylerian supported. The MOTION carries.

vii. Weeds in the Lake – Mike Trent inquired about the many weeds in the lake especially in early summer. John gave a history of invasive species events in the lake and how they were eradicated. He reported the current number of weeds will grow then die off eventually as summer starts. He suggested starting a committee to study this type of weed.

Elections – Three members of the board who are up for election have chosen not to run again; Brian Schultz, Dave Hodnett and Connie Barton. John thanked those individuals for their time on the board.

There are 3 seats available on the board. From those attending the meeting, Marc Ethington, Jim Baylerian and Lisa Byrd volunteered to join. John made a MOTION that nominations be closed and the three individuals be elected to the SHLA board., Mike supported. The MOTION carries. Welcome to the new board members.

Membership comments and questions – Pam Scott reminded all that Free Fishing weekend will be held on June 12/13. She also discussed when the lake quality is being tested at some of the beaches and, in some cases, to be found as unsafe. Often times it is the because of the geese and the sun has not come out enough to heat up the geese excrement and deem the beach as safe. It may only be one area of the beach or lake but does not mean the entire lake is not safe or healthy at the time of testing.

Jim Baylerian made a motion to adjourn, Marc Ethington supported. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Bawol
Secretary