

MINUTES FROM CLEAR LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Saturday, July 15, 2023 – 9:00 am, Clear Lake Town Hall

Eleven members of the community enjoyed Tom's Donuts and coffee as they signed in and received copies of today's agenda, minutes of last year's meeting and the financial report. CLA President Margaret Carlson called the annual public meeting to order at 9:02 am.

There being no objection to the **minutes from the 2022 annual meeting** submitted by Recording Secretary Beth McCracken, John Wilhelm moved the minutes be approved, Kit Tyler seconded the motion and all board members voted in favor. Beth also reported that in the future minutes from the Annual Meeting will be published online on the ASSOCIATION website. (clearlakefun.org)

Treasurer Rita Brown presented the **Financial Report** for the period July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, which showed an Ending Balance in checking of \$82,356.75. (That figure does not reflect payment for the July 1, 2023, fireworks.) Bob Webster made a motion to accept the Financial Report, seconded by John and all voted yes. Rita also gave a **membership update**. Over 600 letters were sent to property owners in May with 356 responses to date, making a 58% membership rate.

CLA REPORTS:

Margaret introduced Incoming **Board Directors** Alex Connett and Brent Myers. She also thanked Bob Webster, who is retiring after serving on the board for six years and Recording Secretary Beth McCracken, who has been in that position since 2015. Beth will continue as CLA Newsletter Editor.

Buoy Project Manager Todd Rumsey was unable to attend but sent a brief report. All buoys are now in place in the water. Those buoys damaged by boats have been replaced. A sign noting safe boating guidelines and a reminder to stay 50 feet out from all buoys has been posted at the marina. The DNR is putting up a sign at the public launch with this same message.

Mandy Gleave, **fireworks** chair, reported that feedback from the July 1 display has been very positive. Several people have asked the cost of the fireworks. This year's show was \$20,000. Donations earmarked for fireworks last year were \$18,505, with the balance being paid from membership dues. CLA has contracted with Pyrotecnico Fireworks Company through 2025.

Grant Requests for CLA funding are due each year by **September 1**. Beth showed the two-page form which is available to local groups. Copies can be obtained from President Margaret Carlson and may be submitted online or by presenting the form to any board member. At the regular September board meeting, Directors make decisions on where and how much to donate, based on contributions received by membership over the summer.

Darin Thorpe emailed a brief report about the **Goose Round-up**. He said it was "a bust" this year because they were too late. The geese were no longer molting and could not be gathered. They plan to schedule it earlier next year.

The **damaged cottage numbers sign** at the corner of 10 West Clear Lake Drive and 700 E has been a long-term issue, but John has taken down the sign and will try to repair it. Kathy Schenkel volunteered to remove the stones at the base of the sign so that grass could grow back and look neater.

COMMUNITY UPDATES:

CLEAR LAKE POLICE

Town Marshal Chris Emerick gave a detailed report from the police department. He reminded everyone to call 911 if there is a true emergency or call the dispatch number (**260-665-3131**) for other issues. When you call, they will ask for your name and contact information, but they will NOT share this information with anyone else. If you email the department, it may take a day or two for a response because officers and deputies are out in the field and the situation may no longer be active for follow up.

- There were increased patrols for the July 4th weekend, totaling over 100 hours. There will always be **increased patrols on holiday weekends**.
- **280 golf carts** are registered at Town Hall. There have only been three carts pulled over for underage drivers. The current ordinance states that children under ten years may not ride on the back seat of a golf cart, but they're looking at rewording that clause to allow for a parent to ride with young children on the back. It's all about safety.
- The **speed limit for golf carts is 10 mph**. Some types of golf carts can go up to 40+ mph, but the speed limit for all carts is to be observed.
- All vehicles are encouraged to watch out for **Blind Spots**. Some community members expressed concern about certain areas which are dangerous around curves or hills on South Clear Lake Drive. Another area of concern is along Penner Drive and the causeway; cutting down the weeds would improve visibility for both walkers and drivers.
- **Pedestrians are reminded to walk facing traffic**. Marshal Emerick said a pedestrian can be liable in a vehicular accident if he/she is walking on the wrong side of the road. Bicyclists ride with the traffic flow.
- The **radar speed-display signs** are providing valuable data about traffic. By downloading input from each location, they are able to determine that 96% of all vehicles are either not speeding or not exceeding the speed limit by more than 5 mph. The main area of speed is on Lakeview Drive entering at the town corporation sign. If there is a need for another radar sign in certain locations, please contact Marshal Emerick. (marshal@townofclearlake.org)
- **Water safety reminders:**
 - Please be aware the buoys along Point Park Drive are further from shore.
 - Paddleboaters must have life jackets onboard, although wearing them is not required.
 - Jet Ski drivers must have a certified boating permit (age 15) or a valid driver's license. Only a 3-person jet ski can tow a skier. (DNR watches for this.)
- Deputies are keeping an eye on the **increased activity at Kasota Island**. Marijuana is legal in Ohio and Michigan but not in Indiana, so they are alert to that. If there is an issue at the Island, please call the dispatch number. (listed above)

CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP LAND CONSERVANCY

Karen Horrell, current CLTLC President, introduced incoming President Doug Mulvaney who will assume that role after their annual meeting later this summer. She also announced that Amy Oberlin became the new Land Steward on June 19. The search for Executive Director is in the initial stages. Karen's report centered around the three goals of the Conservancy.

1. **Land Conservation** – The conservancy recently received approval of a grant from the state to expand its preserve at Koeneman Lake with the blessing from Clear Lake Lutheran Church. This will increase protected land around Clear Lake to about 125 acres.
2. **Water Quality** – There are two major projects currently underway:
 - (1.) Aquatic Vegetation Management – The Eurasian watermilfoil originally infested over 100 acres of both Clear and Round Lakes. With a treatment program from Scott Banfield's company in 2022, the infested area in 2023 was reduced to about 30 acres. There will be another survey in July to assess the current situation after the June 2023 treatment. Karen said the reality is that there will always be some sort of invasive vegetation issue. When some people saw dead fish and green growth on the water, they thought it was from the treatment. It is not. That unpleasant algae bloom was non-toxic and caused by:
 - Phosphorus – mainly from agriculture, some lawn maintenance (Please leave a buffer zone near the water when treating your lawns.)
 - Sustained hot weather, as we had earlier this summer

(2.) Watershed Diagnostic Study – These are the blue boxes you’ll see around the lake which monitor what comes into the lake and what goes out of the lake. They plan to learn the facts and use science to get the lake even cleaner. They have obtained some federal grant money for this expensive project but appreciate any additional donations.

Settlers Wetland Project was one of three sites featured on a recent state conservation tour. The visitors were looking for what is successful and working throughout the state to improve water quality. They were impressed with the collaboration and commitment of the CLTLC and the Clear Lake community.

3. Education

- The Knee-High Naturalist Program has been an outreach opportunity offered to children and their parents on four Fridays in July for many years. Over 100 people participated in the July 7th “Soarin-Hawk Raptor Rehab!”
- The July 8 Fun Run was deemed a success, despite some rainy weather. Over 180 people registered for the Fun Run/Walk and participated in the community events. Thanks goes to the 60+ volunteers who made this happen.

CLEAR LAKE TOWN COUNCIL

Molly Weber, Town Council Vice President, spoke first about **staffing updates**. Nathan Striker assumed the position of Clerk-Treasurer in January. They are searching for an assistant to help Street & Utility Superintendent Guy Rodgers.

Garbage – All garbage is now only “armed” pick up. When they sent out bids for garbage service, the town only received one bid – from Washler. A question was raised about collecting used paint cans for disposal. Molly said their contract with Washler includes heavy trash pickup, which currently seems to be more of a priority.

REARCH Alert – Molly encouraged everyone to sign up for this important information service. Citing notices from everything to road closures to power outages to fireworks dates, this online communication sends brief, up-to-date notices by either email or text. (*see page 10 of CL Directory for sign-up details.*)

The Town is currently negotiating with the Fremont **Fire Department**. They appreciate the important PR role the Clear Lake Association plays in maintaining a good relationship between Clear Lake and the Fire Department.

Communication remains an important goal for Town Council. The UDO and Comprehensive Plan establish parameters, but council welcomes input and discussion.

Roads – TOCL has received a \$1 million federal grant for road construction, but the Town must pay 25% (\$250,000) of that. They plan to start work after summer. The Road Committee is made up of property owners who are primary residents, but not necessarily full-time. Minutes of their meetings are posted on the town website. The following priorities have been established for road work:

- (1) Quiet Harbor
- (2) West Clear Lake Drive between Lakeview and Round Lake over to the bridge
- (3) West Clear Lake Drive between 700 E and Billings Court

Since members of the community were free to ask questions throughout the public meeting, there was no other business or need for Open Forum. Bob Webster moved for adjournment. Margaret thanked everyone for attending. The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

The next CLA Annual Public Meeting will be held **Saturday, July 20, 2024, 9:00 am.**

Respectfully submitted,
Beth McCracken, Recording Secretary