

Gravel Lake Association
Semi-Annual Membership Meeting – Minutes
June 8th, 2019

- I. Called to order: 10:36am
- II. Opening Remarks – thank you to our co-hosts the McBride and Beebe families, pay your dues, buy raffle tickets, and buy paraphernalia!
- III. Roll Call: Craig DeSimone, Reed, Melissa DeSimone, Pinkos, Brown/LaForge, Hochsprung, McDevitt, McGreal, Micheli, Rinaldi, Rockwell, Roeder, Toso, Vitkauskas, Zwartz
- IV. Absent: Carlie DeSimone, Lalone, Paramski
- V. Officers' Reports - order of the meeting spun to start here
 - A. Secretary – Today is world wide knit in public day, check out the knitting table
 - B. Editor – Craig DeSimone reports on behalf of Jamie Paramski - newsletters received, feedback was appreciated, next issue this fall, make sure your address is correct with Janice, no questions or comments
 - C. Internet Ops. – Jim McGreal thanks everyone for the photos received via facebook for the newsletter, thanks to Jamie Paramski for her work on the newsletter since 2005, check out the newsletters in color on the website,
 1. We've had a website since 2002 thanks to John Faustino, you can find an activity schedule, minutes, community resources, and local information on the site.
 2. There have been 524 users, some international attention, home page, calendar, newsletter, about, beach map, community page, fish and wildlife page are all very popular pages on the website.
 3. We have an active Facebook page
 4. Check out the video archive area on the website too
 5. Craig DeSimone says we have a "damn" good website, it looks excellent, best in class, great content and it looks good. We have both a facebook page and facebook group, we have over 1000 members on our group, on the page we post more references and water quality information, there is a difference between the two facebook presences.
 - D. Fundraising – Jen Micheli says you can buy shirts after the meeting, there are new shirts, and the next sale date is June 22 at the Garage Sale weekend at Vitkauskas House, then we have sales at the Kids Games during the 4th of July activities, Poker Run on Saturday 8/3, Membership Meeting on Saturday 8/17, and a possible Labor Day Sale on Saturday 8/31.
 - E. Water Quality – Craig DeSimone reports we are looking good out there, we need a volunteer for additional phosphorus sampling, we are thankful to Greg Garrett for his work and we would like to go above and beyond, we need someone to train and take samples.
 1. Melissa DeSimone explained the connection to MLSA and CLMP, asked for support for government officials willing to continue funding the program.
 2. Dasher Lowe asked about algae on the channel, we will talk about that later
 - F. AIS control – Craig DeSimone reports that we did a Sonar treatment - herbicide treatment for the whole lake to control EWM which is 15% of our plant population, remember back in 2008/2009 when there were mats of EWM on the lake and we want to avoid that problem again.

1. Greg Brucks mentioned that Cedar Lake just had a presentation about spraying the AIS on the road side and we can have that presentation too, it will help us to understand if there is any runoff into the lake.
 2. Craig DeSimone explains about algae treatment (channel), he was just at a conference that discussed blue/green algae, we asked PLM to sample the algae to make sure it is not blue/green algae, you should not swim or let your pets swim, there will be a treatment early next week for the algae.
 3. Ann LaForge asks what we need to stop the algae - Craig DeSimone says we need to reduce the phosphorus and we are reminded that phosphorus based fertilizer is illegal but is hard to enforce, we are monitoring algae.
 4. Craig DeSimone reports that we have a nice AIS identification PDF that is on the website so you can identify the plants you see in the lake.
- G. Buoys/signage – Tom Zwartz says we are all good, Craig DeSimone explains that it is a big deal for the Zwartz family to keep those going, thank you Zwartz family.
- H. Treasurer’s Report – Split the pot, last call
1. Janice Pinkos reports 37,859.01 was our starting balance this year and then we added a fish stocking donation of \$500 and membership dues totalling \$8,489.61, with expenses of \$6,886.66 leaving us with a total at this point of \$39,461.96
 2. There are a few phone directories for people who paid their dues after they were passed out last year, see Janice for your directory before you leave.

VI. Old Business

- A. 4th of July
1. Kids’ Games – Saturday 7/6 at Willow Beach Resort at 11AM - Craig DeSimone reports that we NEED a VOLUNTEER to run the event, you get a budget to buy goodie bags and supplies, Craig will help get additional volunteers for the day of but we need an organizer, email or text Craig if you are interested.
 2. Paddle Boat Regatta – Saturday 7/6 in channel at 6PM, registration at 5:30pm, free event, you must wear a PDF, many divisions
 3. Fun Run – Sunday 7/7 at Willow Beach Resort at 9AM, registration at 8:30am, free event
 4. Boat Parade – Sunday 7/7 at Fazzini’s dock at 2PM, registration at 1:30pm, same as last year, Suzanne Reed wants to know if there is a theme for the boat parade, Craig DeSimone does not know but we will announce on facebook.
- B. Poker Run – 8/4 - Janice Pinkos says the poker run is on, there are 7 dock hosts, Alyssa Pinkos, Suzanne Reed, Darla Kelliher, Tricia Barker, Janice Pinkos are on the committee, Contact Darla to make a donation, the procedure will be the same as last year for tshirts, raffle prizes, GL gear, and tickets. The committee is still looking for an after party which includes a stipend to get a DJ and/or portapotty, no “dish to pass”, there will be a later start time.
- C. Garage sale – 6/22-6/23 from 9AM-3PM - Linda Vitkauskas reports that we are having a lake wide garage sale involving 17 families so far, this was created in response to our survey, let Linda know that you would like to participate so Linda can add you to the map, Linda is going to advertise, if you have suggestions or questions contact Linda, she will also take donation items to sell and the proceeds will go to “Animals Best Friend”
- D. Halloween 2019 - Phil Rinaldi reports that we will have a Trick or Treat on Gebhard October 19, hayrides at Shangri La farm, bonfire, smores, etc. we will update you on facebook with the time and other details
- E. Public Access - Craig DeSimone says we don’t have anything to report at this time, just looking for feedback if anyone has concerns.
1. Moon Rimes says you should check with your insurance to see if you can get a discount based on the new fire station by the Porter Township hall, Craig DeSimone

has been talking to the Porter Township treasurer and his sister who is an insurance provider, Frank Gordon says the station is not active so you will not get a reduced rate until there is a concrete drive and it is active for that to happen, Greg Brucks says there is a dry hydrant on Gravel Lake Drive which should give you an insurance discount, Janice Pinkos shows us that she is already getting a discount for being within 2 miles of a fire station, Chris Toso reports that he drilled the dry hydrant on Gravel Lake Drive himself.

2. Chris Toso reminds us that the entire channel is a no wake zone
- F. Shaw Rd. pedestrians - Craig DeSimone reports that we are still pursuing a solution and will keep everyone posted.

VII. New Business

- A. MLSA update: Craig DeSimone give an update on the MLSA conference in May.
 1. Boat wash - We saw a demo by CD3 for a waterless system to remove AIS from boats, the board interested in wash at public access, may be able to get grant money
 - a) Some questions that came up:
 - (1) How is the state enforcing the cleaning of boats? - Law enforcement officers are checking boats they see trailered starting this year.
 - (2) Are there any studies that show the efficacy of boat wash? - Unknown
 - (3) Can we charge to use the public access? - No, it is owned by the DNR
 - (4) Greg Brucks says the DNR has demo boat washes we should look into.
 - (5) Craig DeSimone reports that we are concerned we could be a site the DNR might want to expand.
 - (6) Karen Vaickus asks how you determine if the site is large enough or could be expanded. You have to do a carrying capacity study to find out.
 2. Algae blooms - Craig DeSimone saw presentation on this, we need to be vigilant, good reason for natural shorelines in the channel, don't panic just let us know if anything needs to be looked at.
 3. PFAS - Known as "forever chemicals". Your water is at risk if you are near industry, airport, river water, ground water, Gravel Lake is at low risk but we can test for it in wells and in the lake body.
 4. Gravel Lake in Riparian - Jim McGreal reports that we have a video archive with the help of Paul vanSchoyck, we are looking for more video archive interviews and centennial families, Jim will post on Facebook and asks people to contact him with leads, Anna McGreal is going to put together an article for the Riparian - she is looking for the history of gravel lake, oral history, historical photos and documents, beach name origins, native american history, Mark Fazzini has compiled some of that information on the website as well.
- B. Dues
 1. We are currently very reliant on fundraising, which can't be counted on, to be in the black. We have a lot of things we spend money on and we want to do more, like the boat wash and maintaining other benefits like the picnic.
 2. How do we compare to other associations? Other associations in our area range from \$25-50
 3. What do we raise on fundraising? \$4000 on poker run, tshirts are more of a service as we don't make much money on those.
 - a) Frank Enright suggests we raise the dues to bring it up to the \$4000 mark, after doing the math it would raise the dues of current members by \$19 a year.

4. Mike Garvey makes a motion to raise the annual dues to \$50 starting in 2020 and there was a second by Mike Herring.
 - a) Any other discussion? Dave Brown suggests we give people time to think about it and vote later.
 - (1) Tom Zwartz says we should take a vote right now.
 - (2) Dasher Lowe thinks we should publish the nonmember list and get more members.
 - (3) Suzanne Reed moves to close discussion, Dave Brown seconded the motion, and it passes.
 - b) Vote to raise dues to \$50 starting in 2020 - was passed by majority by a show of hands, there were 2 opposed
 - c) Mike Herring says we should get a volunteer on every beach to drum up membership.
- C. Other new business - New Owners get a welcome basket, let Suzanne Reed know about any new owners.
- D. Kerry Rimes suggests a lakewide garage sale with proceeds that go to the lake association.
- E. The spillway goes to Saddlebag and then Big Fish Lake.
- F. Next BOT meeting – Saturday, July 20th at 10am at township hall
- G. Next Membership meeting – Saturday, August 17th at Rinaldi's: 94321 Gebhard Dr.
- H. 50-50 raffle winners: 372003 gets a sweatshirt, 372023 get a sweatshirt, \$155.50 goes to 675528

VIII. Announcements –

- A. Marianne Garrett says that there is a farmer 2nd house from the left from the township hall, he is having people going on his property on snowmobiles, please stop because it is causing him property damage.
- B. Reminder: No wake zone in the channel
- C. Veggie burgers are available by request
- D. The DeSimones ask that you please recycle plastic cups and bottles
- E. Dave Brown says thank you to the volunteers who set up the picnic and needs a few more volunteers to put food out.
- F. Thank you Dave for organizing the picnic!

IX. Adjournment: 12:03pm