

Hess Lake Improvement Association
Minutes of the May Monthly Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2022
5:30 pm
Brooks Township Hall – Newaygo, MI

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

The regular monthly meeting of the Hess Lake Improvement Association was called to order by President Roelofs at 5:33 pm on Monday, May 9, 2022 at Brooks Township Hall.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Mary Spicer	Secretary / Zone 6 Rep – Present via phone
Janella Byrne	Zone 5 Rep
Terry Roelofs	President / Zone 7 Rep
Mark Breen	Vice President / Zone 3 Rep
Pat Bertrand	Alternate
Nancy Calvi	Treasurer /Alternate
Bart Calvi	Alternate / HLB Brooks Twp Rep
Grant Bryan	Alternate
Frank Janusz	Alternate

Members Absent:	John VanDam	Zone 1 Rep
	Chad Bishop	Alternate
	Joseph Marrow	Alternate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by President Roelofs, supported by Vice-President Breen, to approve the May Agenda; motion carried unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

Member Calvi discussed the current Treasurers Report.

Checking Account Balance: \$17,769.63

CD: \$17,011.59

Motion by President Roelofs, supported by Member Bryan to approve the Treasurers Report as of May 9, 2022; Motion carried unanimously.

HESS LAKE BOARD REPORT

Member Bryan discussed projects happening with the Hess Lake Board:

The HLB applied for a fisheries improvement grant from the state of Michigan. While we made the first cut, ultimately were not awarded the grant. At this point, we don't know why we were rejected, but we are hoping to understand that soon.

The board approved the hiring of a company called Carp Solutions to perform a more rigorous survey of our carp population. We know the carp are a big problem, but we don't really know the extent of the problem. This survey will give us a more exact definition of the issue and help us work toward a solution. The surveying will consist of tagging a number of carp and tracking them electronically. They then use a mathematical model to give a detailed estimate of the total population. Also, Carp Solutions will be capturing a number of carp using a unique method of baiting and netting combined with an electronic trigger that activates the nets. This whole process will be ongoing this summer and we will be updating everyone with the activity on the lake. For those interested, there are YouTube videos online that demonstrate some of their processes.

The board also approved a thorough study of the banks of Wheeler Drain to try to determine the worst areas of erosion and define possible solutions.

A number of other issues were discussed:

SEAWALLS ♦ It was noted by the drain commissioner that EGLE (formerly DEQ) is not issuing any permits for seawalls, except those that meet "natural shoreline" requirements. We also discussed the proposed presentation from MSU extension at the HLIA meeting in June and agreed that would be a great educational tool.

FARM DRAINAGE ♦ A question was asked about the large farm drainage project off Willow Rd. The drain commissioner stated that the project had been started without a permit, but other than that, the work being done was legal.

WEED CONTROL ♦ A lake weed survey will be done in late May by Progressive A&E. The results of that survey will determine what weed control applications will be done for the year. The goal is to do as little herbicide application as possible.

EDUCATION ♦ The drain commissioner's office will be mailing an informational packet later this spring to all Hess Lake taxpayers with info on the many things we can do to protect/improve our lake.

As for specific dates as to when all of these items will occur, please stay tuned.

The next HLB meeting: July 12th @ 9:30am - Drain Commission Office in White Cloud.

WEB ADMINISTRATOR

Member Spicer updated on the updated website and the ability to pay membership dues is coming soon.

LEADERSHIP TEAM BY-LAWS

A By-Laws Committee was formed and will meet in early June to review the HLIA By-Laws.

CARP

10 Carp Cages are out and each resident has a permit

The Carp Round up will be May 22 – June 11. Carp are to be brought to the Drop off site used in previous years off Hess Lake Drive. The pay out will be \$2.00 / per carp.

WELCOME BAGS

Member Byrne put together Welcome Bags for new Hess Lake residents. Each Zone Rep was given 10 bags.

GEESE

The Goose Round-up was canceled this year. The Cancellation of Goose round up is statewide due to High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirmed the state's first cases of HPAI H5N1 in wild birds in the state.

MEMBERSHIP SIGNS

2022 Membership signs will be delivered in June to residents who have paid their Membership due.

FLARES

The All American North Country Store (Hess Lake) is selling flare this year. The HLIA is no longer handling these sales.

BOAT PARADE

The Hess Lake Boat Parade will be held on July 4th @ Noon. Similar to previous years, participants can choose their own theme, prizes will be given to the top winners. Member Roelofs will handle promotions and Member Calvi will be handle Boat Parade registrations.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by President Roelofs, supported by Member Breen to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Mary Spicer, Secretary

REMIDERS:

June 4th 10am Boater Safety – Moved to the Brooks Township Meeting Room

June 9th – 11th Hess Lake Yard Sales

June 13th – Next Monthly HLIA Meeting

June 19th – Annual HLIA Meeting