

Caribou Lake Property Owners Association
Spring Meeting May 28, 2016
Lutsen Town Hall

Board Members Present: Fred Morris, Bob Hewitt, Larry Mullen, Louise Soumi, Bill Dunn, Julie Bittinger. Absent: Robert Reid

Meeting called to order at 10:15 am

Introduction of Board Members and all attending meeting (approx. 50 people).

Announcement by Fred Morris: At the fall meeting envelopes and postage will be provided for members to send in their email addresses to receive communication from CLPOA electronically instead of using paper. We would like to reduce the amount of paper used in the future.

I. Committee Reports

A. CCCoLA by Irene Mullen: although the Cook Co. Lake Assoc. won't meet until next week, Irene reported on the AIS Aquatic Invasive Species program in the County. Caribou Lake is considered a priority so there will be 1x/week inspection through this season. AIS is funded by the Water Legacy Fund from the state. The CCCoLA is looking for new members including a new leader upon resignation of current leader. 15 lakes in Cook County belong to this organization which meets on a regular basis to discuss issues related to the lakes and water quality in Cook County.

B. Water Quality Report by Larry Mullen for Bob Reid: testing of our lake for water quality is done 4x/year in 5 locations (C of P camp, Fosters, landing, peninsula isthmus, island). Larry presented a graph of the last 5 years for phosphorous levels, water clarity, dissolved oxygen levels, and chlorophyll levels. All areas show improvement over the past five years. Water quality can be adversely affected by septic systems, fertilizer use, improper detergents - all of which cause conditions in which algae can flourish. Quality is improved with upgraded septic systems, decreased fertilization and shoreline buffers preventing runoff. CLPOA has tested the water since water quality started declining in the 1970's. The worst levels being found about 7 years ago. Thanks to efforts of CLPOA in upgrading septic systems, and following good practices, Caribou Lake is doing consistently better.

C. Tribal harvest of Walleye by Fred Morris: The harvest took much less walleye than their allotment. Their survey showed there are big walleye in Caribou.

II. Guest Speakers

A. County Report by Commissioner Ginny Storlie:

1. Comprehensive trail plan committee has held meetings for the last 8 months. The trails include ATV, skiing, hiking and snowmobile trails. A guide plan has been made and the committee continues to meet to work on improving the trails Cook County has (not making new trails), including increase access to all trails, joint parking lots, etc.
2. Sign ordinance review and update has been done
3. Land use guide review done and passed

4. One watershed/one plan will be completed soon for County review.
5. Broadband commission is working on increasing telecommunication throughout Cook County by having several sites available for public use. Also, work stations for vacationers being planned in county.
6. Cook County website posts the meeting agenda on the Friday before Tuesday meetings (2nd, 3rd, 4th Tuesdays)
7. Popular River will be delisted as river of concern after the 10 year project to improve the river. 6 monitor sites will still be used to watch runoff after weather events.
8. Two positions have been filled by new people in Lutsen government
9. Lutsen Post Office lobby is now open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

B. History of Caribou Lake - videos by Bob Dunn

(The videos will be posted on CLPOA website.)

Board Member Bill Dunn introduced the very interesting videos of his father Bob Dunn reminiscing about the changes he has seen in the 80 years he has been coming to Caribou Lake. Bob talked of his experiences on Caribou Lake since he first traveled here as a young boy in the early 1930's. He had the audience laughing and gasping as he told stories about the colorful characters who visited and lived along the shores of the lake in the early years including some of the first families here. He also commented on the fishing back when he was a boy. He gave interesting details of the first homes, resorts, and roads around Caribou Lake. A lake much loved by many generations. The audience thoroughly enjoyed Bob's remembrances. Several people recorded telephone messages to thank Bob.

III. Open Forum

Fred Morris opened this part of the meeting encouraging members to voice any concerns they have about the lake, issues for Board members to take up, and/or ideas for future meetings.

1. Fred read an email from Steve Bragg about his upcoming anniversary party which will have a live band playing outdoors. Upon discussion Fred will send a letter to Steve to ask that the noise end sooner in the night than last year.
2. Fred asked if there is any interest in those at the meeting taking over the 'Adopt a Highway' duties that Fred is currently unable to perform due to a skiing injury. The area is a mile on either side of Hwy 61 at the bottom of the Caribou Trail. There is interest, so Fred will contact DOT to see if the change can be made.
3. Firewise rep Todd Ambruster sent Fred an email to check if the CLPOA Board wants to become a Firewise Community. The Board would then recruit others around the lake to join. It is strictly voluntary. The Board will keep track of volunteer hours on individual property to make it wildfire safe. Then, we will be eligible to receive money for slash pickup in the fall.
4. Identified issues from the Board are as follows: potential for noise pollution, invasive species on shore and in the water.
5. There is an area in the gravel pit for slash
6. Bob Hewitt said a snowplow operator had brought a concern. Snowplows need room to push and plow the snow. So, everyone must be careful where they park, or the road will not be able to be plowed.

7. Loon nest platform was successfully placed early on the lake during ice out. However, it has not been used. Perhaps because the wind moved it into the outlet bay too near shore. If not used within two weeks, the nest should be removed. Next year will be the last try for successful and early placement.
8. The Westbys have a stake for measuring lake levels that the DNR will monitor.
9. Concern raised on the importance of keeping our undeveloped shoreline and the school trust land which is a big part of that. Linda Slocum is a MN state legislator who has a cabin on Caribou. She is on the committee that oversees the school trust land. Fred will ask her to speak this fall. He has talked to her and feels right now Caribou is safe from development.
10. Concern about campers washing their hair with shampoo in the lake. Fred will contact C of P and suggest that small signs be placed in the camp cabins about not using soap or shampoo in the lake for water quality.
11. Business question- proposal: we split the amount we donate to the Fire Dept. with EMS. Historically we've donated \$500 to only the Fire Dept. This will be presented as a motion in the fall.
12. The street light at the bottom of Caribou Trail and Hwy 61 will be installed by DOT in July or August.

Bob Hewitt reported that the speaker for our 2016 fall meeting (Saturday of Labor Day weekend) will be Shel Anderson - accomplished speaker, author and ecologist for NE MN and a Hovland resident.

Meeting Adjourned at Noon

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Bittinger
Secretary CLPOA