

CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022
LUTSEN TOWN HALL

After enjoying a brief time to get donuts and coffee and greet neighbors, the Annual Meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM with introductions of the 41 attendees including Board members Fred Morris, Bob Reid, Tom Rider, Karl Karst, Larry Mullen, Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Julie Bittinger, Mike Nicklow.

I. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report by Tom Rider. Balance of \$. Expenses were \$1,180 for water testing, \$460 for donations to CCOLA and U of M research on Wake Boats, \$483.64 on AIS (aquatic invasive species), specifically associated with Rusty Crawfish capture, \$227.04 on our Hwy 61 Clean-up Event. Tom reports that membership is down.

B. CCCOLA -Cook County Coalition of Lakes Association- report by Irene Mullen. There are now 19 lake and road associations in CCCOLA working to preserve the quality of the lakes in Cook County. MN Lakes and Rivers is a great organization working on environmental issues. Anyone can join and is urged to join.

C. Water Quality Report by Larry Mullen. Details are on our website. CLPOA has been monitoring water quality since 1970 - unique in the state. Water quality is measured at 5 sites several times in the year. The water quality remains within the limits we have set for phosphorous levels, chlorophyll, and clarity following improvement over the decade.

D. Rusty Crayfish Update by Larry Mullen. This invasive species was first discovered in Caribou in 2020 when 50 rusty crayfish were caught. 2021 saw 1087 caught. This year Larry has caught 3,942. The Rusty crayfish displace native crayfish, eat vegetation necessary for fish, destroy fish habitat and are aggressive and fight off fish attempting to eat them. They are mostly on the north shore of Caribou Lake, but have been captured at the opening of Sawmill Bay and the back bay.

E. Commissioner Storlie reported on 3 areas that are being investigated and worked on in Cook County: the housing shortage in Cook County, child care in Cook County and the vacation rental ordinance revision.

F. Wake Boats and Wake Surfing Update by Karl Karst and Fred Morris. 65% of lakeshore property owners have signed the petition the Board has been circulating. This is the first step in asking for wake boats and wake surfing to be prohibited on Caribou Lake. A letter was sent to all lakeshore property owners who hadn't signed the petition at our Spring meeting or in person informing them of the reasons wake boats and wake surfing would be damaging to Caribou Lake. Caribou is a relatively shallow lake and has a configuration not allowing proper dispersion of the huge ocean sized waves created by these boats which allow someone to surf behind them without a tow rope. According to research, the size and depth of these waves causes shoreline erosion, loon nesting disruption, and harmful disruption to shallow lake bottoms leading to algae growth. These waves would also be disruptive to fishing, kayaking, swimming, etc. In addition, the big ballasts these boats require to create the waves are potential carriers of aquatic invasive species that could be spread from lake to lake. This information is all supported research. This petition does not pertain to water skiing, wake boarding, boats or horsepower used on inland lakes. The next step the CLPOA Board will take in the petition process is to submit the petition and a detailed letter of the research facts to the Cook County commissioners and appear at a Cook County board meeting. Then, if the county

approves our request to prohibit wake boats and wake surfing on Caribou Lake, they will send it on to the DNR which has the final say. This is the quickest action we can take to affect wake boats/surfing on our lake. Eventually the state will probably address this problem as many lakes are encountering concerns and problems where this is allowed. A suggestion was made from the floor to contact our city council, and our state legislators to inform them of this problem. Linda Slocum made the motion that CLPOA put this information on our website and on signage at the public landing. Seconded by Sally Westby. Motion approved.

F. Nominations for 2 year positions on the CLPOA Board. Linda Slocum made the motion to nominate and elect Tom Rider and Karl Karst. Seconded by Sally Westby. Motion approved.

II. Presentation on Sugarloaf Cove. Bob Reid introduced speaker Dominique Menard, Master Naturalist from Sugarloaf Cove. Dominique gave an interesting talk about the non-profit, the Scientific Natural Area, and the Forest Collaborative which are all part of Sugarloaf Cove. It's a beautiful place with trails, educational programs for all ages, gift shop/office and a preservation area including Cobblestone beach and wetlands. Sugarloaf has a website with a calendar of all the programs and events.

III. Issues from the floor

Tim Nelson asked if anyone knew the status of the Teachers' Trust Fund land on Caribou Lake. He'd noticed a driveway and logging that was possibly being done on section 36 of the trust land. Was this for development of lots or grouse hunting? There was talk of using trust land for carbon credits for companies. No one knew the answer. Linda Slocum will get back to us on information if there is development planned.

IV. Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Bittinger
Secretary