

CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
SPRING MEETING MAY 27, 2023
LUTSEN TOWN HALL

The Spring Meeting was more informal this year. We began with 20 minutes of social time. Fred Morris called the meeting to order at 10:20 am.
Board members present: Fred Morris, Tom Rider, Larry Mullen, Karl Karst, Mike Nicklow, Jeanne Anderson, Charlie Austin, Julie Bittinger, and Sharon Hexum-Platzer.
Approximately 46 people attended in all.

Fred began the meeting with an update on the Wake Surfing Petition. The Cook County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved our petition (signed by over 75% of Caribou Lake property owners) to ban Wake Surfing on Caribou due to potential for water quality damage, invasive species transfer in ballasts, and disruption to loon nests and activities on the lake due to the huge waves created for surfing. Fred put together a lengthy binder of all the research done on the effects of wake surfing to inland lakes. It is available for anyone to view. He gave a copy to the Cook County Board who passed it on to the DNR. The DNR has 120 days to respond either in support or against. And, after the 120 days, if the DNR hasn't taken action, Cook County is allowed to impose the ban with an ordinance. Fred was thanked for his work on putting together the binder. It is invaluable for our success. We are the first lake association to put forward a wake surfing ban to the DNR. Other lakes are following our lead.

Larry Mullen presented information on Rusty Crawfish- invasive, aggressive, and damaging to vegetation and fish. This species of crawfish has been present in Caribou for the last several years. The number of trapped rusty crayfish has jumped from 50 Rusties trapped 3 years ago to 4000 trapped last year. The Rusty Crawfish have been trapped in Bigsby Bay, all along the North Shore of Caribou and at the entrance of Sawmill Bay. Traps are available from Larry. The traps can be set at the end of docks on the bottom with fish parts or hot dogs as bait. Please educate yourself as to the proper identification of the Rusty Crayfish versus our native crayfish. The U of M will conduct a study on Caribou June 12—16 and August 14-18 in Bigsby Bay to determine best trapping methods and best bait. Please dispose of the Rusty Crawfish humanely by placing in a freezer for a few days.

Tom Rider, Treasurer, reports that he is setting up a payment portal on our website for easy payment of CLPOA dues. Dues are only \$30 a year. The dues go to testing lake water for phosphorous, etc., addressing aquatic invasive species, and in general ensuring the quality of Caribou lake is maintained.

Please consider joining the CLPOA Board. There is a minimum amount of work involved, but as a Board member you play a vital part to ensure that the welfare of our beautiful lake is maintained. The CLPOA is one of the earliest lake associations in the state to address water quality, now including invasive species, wake surfing, natural lakeshore environments.

Road Clean-Up on HWY 61 will once again be held the Friday of Labor Day weekend. Please join your lake neighbors in the clean-up and cookout immediately following at Lutsen TownHall. More information will be provided as the date draws near.

Sharon reported that an Historical Marker will be placed at the Town Hall and the ball field is being refurbished with soccer nets and for more t-ball use.

Meeting adjourned so all could enjoy the fantastic, sunny, warm summer weather on our amazing Caribou Lake.

Respectfully submitted - Julie Bittinger, Secretary

