

**THE DOUGLAS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
54th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**AGENDA AND NOTES**

**DATE: Saturday, July 29, 2023**

**TIME: 10:00 am**

**LOCATION: Pellston High School Auditorium**

| Agenda Item   | Discussion   |
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| <p><b>Call to Order/Opening</b> – Ron Witthoff</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ron called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m., welcomed all in attendance and thanked those who organized and served at the pre-meeting breakfast. Ron also expressed appreciation to Stephen Seelye and Pellston Public Schools for allowing the DLIA to have its meeting in Pellston High School Auditorium.</li> <li>▪ Quorum was noted.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b> –Suzanne Witthoff</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Suzanne reported that the proposed 2024 budget will be presented at the August 2023 Executive Board Meeting and approval will be requested by the Executive Board once the budget is finalized.</li> <li>▪ Suzanne noted that \$133,254 that is shown in the budget will be reduced by \$54,26579, which is the final invoice for the Boat Ramp Replacement Project. This invoice represents 60% of the cost of the project that DLIA agreed to pay to Munro Township.</li> <li>▪ Suzanne also noted that there were donations toward the Boat Ramp Replacement Project of \$5,101.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Unfinished Business</b><br/><b>Boat Ramp Replacement Project</b> – Ron Witthoff</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ron reported that the boat ramp construction has been completed. Munro Township engaged a contractor with earth moving equipment to clean out the ramp in the Spring.</li> <li>▪ Ron said that future on-going maintenance will be needed. Stewart Case and his crew of volunteers have been performing maintenance including sand removal that can be done with shovels.</li> <li>▪ DLIA and Munro Township agree it will be beneficial to describe in writing each other’s obligations for ongoing maintenance. To that end, Ron and Stewart proposed a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Munro Township.</li> <li>▪ The draft MOU states that Munro Township has legal jurisdiction over the boat ramp and will be responsible for maintenance, but that DLIA volunteers will perform reasonable maintenance that can be done by hand tools.</li> <li>▪ The MOU is being reviewed by the Township.</li> </ul> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ron acknowledged that some people have told him they have had issues with bringing their boats in and out. Various reasons for that difficulty were expressed. Ron asked those who were having problems to let him know the specifics so that issues can be addressed.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Guest Speaker –</b><br/>Stephen Seelye, Superintendent of Pellston Public Schools</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Seelye laid out the three principles that Pellston schools operate by: love our students, work hard, be positive. Mr. Seelye said these three principles have guided the schools to start out the children’s education well with pre-school early learning programs, and finish well with numerous Career and Technical Educational Classes and dual enrollment at Baker College and North Central Michigan College.</li> <li>▪ Mr. Seelye described many large improvement projects that the school district is tackling and stated that the district was recently awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the EPA to provide four electric busses.</li> <li>▪ To support student athletics, provide indoor recess space and allow alternative use of current space in the high school and to provide the community with fitness programs and meeting space, the school district is supporting a \$11.75 million bond proposal to construct a new fieldhouse for student and community use. [*POST MEETING NOTE: voters did not pass the bond issue.]</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Remarks from University of Michigan Biological Station –</b><br/>Mark Paddock – Former Associate Director<br/>Christine Billau – Communications Director</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Paddock provided a map of the property around Douglas Lake owned by the University of Michigan and photos of the campus and its buildings. He brought the historic buildings to life through stories of his time as Assistant Director and as Steward.</li> <li>▪ Mr. Paddock’s description of the tin cabins the engineers built in 1915, ‘16 and ‘17 at a cost of \$105 and the wood cabins the biologists built were much appreciated by the residents of Douglas Lake who have grown up seeing those iconic buildings on the lake.</li> <li>▪ At the close of his remarks, the attendees rose to their feet to express appreciation to Mr. Paddock for his many years of service to DLIA and the natural environment he has studied and worked to preserve throughout his life.</li> <li>▪ Christine Billau, Communications Director, described herself as a storyteller for the Bio Station. Ms. Billau told the members about the many research projects the Bio Station is involved in, including forest resilience research, scientific discoveries such as the Eco-Evo-Devo Course, field-based research based on modern technology, molecular genetics and research related to Monarch butterflies.</li> <li>▪ In the future, the Bio Station’s goal is to become carbon neutral as it replaces its cabins and updates its utility infrastructure. It plans to be a sustainable, accessible and inclusive educational space.</li> </ul> |

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| <p><b>New Business</b><br/> <b>Election of Officers – Mary Ellen Sheridan</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mary Ellen Sheridan, chairperson of the Nominating Committee, placed Kathy Buchweitz's name into nomination on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Mary Ellen requested nominations from the floor and there were none. Kathy was elected by acclamation.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Special Recognitions</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ron recognized Gwen Kuehn for her many years of service as Membership Administrator. Ron said that he was sorry Gwen was unable to attend the meeting but that he would convey the deep appreciation of the members in person to her.</li> <li>▪ Mary Ellen Sheridan recognized Suzanne Wittoff for her four years of service as Treasurer. Mary Ellen pointed out that Suzanne updated the accounting and financial systems of the DLIA, which provided a significant benefit to the organization. Suzanne is experienced, organized, and an excellent communicator and these skills were much appreciated by Mary Ellen and the DLIA.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Trivia Answers and Awards</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Linda Orlow provided the answers to the trivia questions presented at the pre-meeting breakfast and presented awards to the winners.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Adjournment</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Minutes submitted by Linda Woolcott</b></p>                                 |   |

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