

LITTLE PLATTE LAKE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
August 7, 2021  
LAKE TOWNSHIP HALL

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Dave Van Hammen at 10:05 AM. Board members and attendees introduced themselves and stated where they live on the lake.

Jerry Rupley introduced Jane Perrino, AIS Coordinator with the Benzie Conservation District. She spoke about aquatic plants and various invasive species. The state recognizes that we are a "water rich" area and in 2017 Benzie County received a grant to purchase two mobile boat washing units. They are heated and pressurized and have been found to be a very effective treatment to reduce invasive species. It is still a matter of educating the public. The Huron Manistee National Forest has partnered with the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. Together they monitor about five lakes a year. Little Platte Lake was on their agenda to survey this year. They used what is called Point Intercept and is done by using a double sided rake which is tossed out in four directions and then pulled to the boat to identify the underwater vegetation clinging to the rake. They did not find invasive Milfoil but she stated they were not in the area that was reported by RLS. They did find ample Bladderwort which is a native plant and healthy to have in our lake. She stated the small amount of Milfoil found may be able to be hand harvested if done in a specific way to eliminate the spreading of the plant to other areas. They did notice purple loosestrife in areas but it is not a part of their program. An official report of the survey will be provided by Benzie County Conservation District and should appear on line by Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.

Our next speaker was, Laura Rigan, Farmland Program Manager with Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. Laura's family has owned property in our area for over 100 years and she is very familiar with the Mount Minnie Nature Preserve project. Mount Minnie is the highest elevation in Lake Township consisting of 65 acres. About 1/3 mile of a steep trail has been completed to date. The goal is to complete over a mile of hiking trails. GTRLC is seeking volunteers to help in building the trails. She was asked about hunting on the land and she stated only bow hunting will be permitted.

**Secretary Report** – Diane Brown shared a picture of a cougar sitting on the dock of the mobile home just east of The Sleeping Bear Hideaway. The picture was shown to Jane Perrino who stated they received the same picture Friday and verified it is an actual cougar. The picture was taken by a visiting relative of a neighbor next to the resort while she was kayaking. After much discussion and excitement over the picture, a motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of the LPLA 2020 annual meeting as posted on our website.

**Invasive Species Report** Jerry Rupley reported that Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) surveyed our lake again this year and found only a very small patch of Milfoil near the area of American Resort. Jerry has spoken with a few experts and it is believed it may be able to be pulled by hand using nets to protect surrounding areas to keep from spreading plants as it is pulled. He will continue to investigate.

**Treasurer Report** - John Ester provided members with the Treasurer's Report reflecting a balance of \$28,088.90 as of May 31, 2021. The proposed budget for 2021-22 was also discussed. Motion to accept the treasurer's reports was made, seconded and passed. Copies of both reports will be posted on the website. John also reported on membership. There are 262 eligible members, 146 email subscribers and 82 or 83 actual paid members. He expressed appreciation for LPLA members, financial contributors and the cooperation of our members when we sought permission to treat the Milfoil.

**Wildlife Report** – John thanked Char Ester and Dave Van Hammen for getting the loon platform in place this year. The loons hatched 2 chicks but he was not sure if both survived. It was reported that as many as seven loons were observed on the lake recently. The eagles produced three chicks this year. They are now off of the nest located in the Deadstream. John stated how fortunate we are to have the pair of Trumpeter Swans on

our lake and reminded everyone not to feed them. Jim Dodge shared a fact many of us found surprising. The Trumpeter swans molt all their flight feathers during mid-summer and cannot fly for about a month.

**Water Level Report** – Jim Dodge gave the water level report. He provided a detailed chart depicting water levels from 4/20/2020 to 8/6/2021. The chart for 2021 recorded when boards were added and removed. Jim stated the ice was melted by 3/12/2021 and the beginning of April the lake was at a record low of 1.15. The morning of the meeting the level read 1.69 but with the rain coming in, he did not feel he should call for a board to be added. Jim said all boards are removed by the end of October and this helps reduce some of the buildup of silt from our lake.

**President's Report** – Dave Van Hammen thanked the board members for their work.

**Old Business:**

Mary Rupley reported on the garlic mustard. No pulls were organized in 2020 due to Covid and yet Deadstream Rd. looked better this year. She still encourages everyone to pull in a timely manner.

Bob Kondek was not able to attend but had reported that the Saffron Creek Culvert is to be worked on in August. John Ester acknowledged Bob for his hard work on our LPLA website.

**New Business:**

Under consideration was the Board's motion to amend the Bylaws to allow an organization to become a member of our association. This was prompted by the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's ownership of Mount Minnie Nature Preserve and explained more thoroughly in the 2021 Newsletter. John reported that most of our members had voted on the motion when renewing their membership, and that an overwhelming majority had voted in favor the motion. Thus the motion was approved by more than 2/3rds of those voting, as is required to amend our Bylaws. A copy of the amended Bylaws will be posted on the LPLA website.

A motion was made seconded and approved to re-elect our existing President Dave Van Hammen, Secretary Diane Brown and trustee Jerry Rupley currently serving on the board.

Date for next year is tentatively set for Saturday June 25, 2022

There were 15 members and 2 guests in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Brown, Secretary

August 18, 2021