

LITTLE PLATTE LAKE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
July 22, 2023  
LAKE TOWNSHIP HALL

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Dave Van Hammen at 10:00 AM. Board members and attendees introduced themselves and stated where they live on the lake.

**Guest Speakers** were from GTRLC - Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

**Barb Heflin** shared that the Birch Point Nature Preserve containing 114 acres is now officially protected. It is located west of Platte Lake and north of Rush Lake. They are currently working on private easements to the preserve. She gave a special thanks to supporters for their monetary donations and those that volunteer their time to help in various ways.

**Angie Bouma** talked about the Mt Minnie Nature Preserve having healthy plant life and a variety of birds including a population of Red-headed Woodpeckers. It was suggested that a ramp be installed to replace the few steps from the parking lot to a short trail to give handicap access. Angie will look into the possibility. Work continues on the trails and an additional 1.2 mile trail is being planned. Volunteers are appreciated and can call or check in on the GTRLC website. Work on invasive species, especially Garlic Mustard, takes place in May and June. Visitors are welcome to visit GTRLC located on 3 Mile Road in Traverse City. On site you will find a native plant greenhouse, a gift shop and you can visit the goats used to control weeds.

**Secretary Report** – Diane Brown noted a correction to the 2022 minutes. The minutes recorded Mary Ann Tomaszewski as the person contributing the photos of the loon with chicks when it should have been Mary Lundeberg. A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes with said correction.

**Invasive Species Report** - Jerry Rupley reported on invasive species. There was very little invasive Milfoil last year hence no survey was done of the lake this year. He suggested the survey be completed every other year. It is hopeful the Phragmites will be treated this year. The sighting of Narrow Leaf Cattails had been reported but does not seem to be of much concern.

**Treasurer Report** - John Ester announced that Jerry is stepping down from the board this year and thanked him for the excellent work he has done tackling invasive species on our lake. John provided members with the Treasurer's Report reflecting a balance of \$37,344.00. He stated it can be difficult to manage invasive species on a lake our size with limited membership and is thankful for special donations received. The proposed budget for 2023-24 was also discussed. Motion to accept the treasurer's reports was made, seconded and passed. Copies of reports will be posted on the website.

**Wildlife Report** – John Ester stated our loon platform needs to be reinforced. The loons used the platform at the west end of the lake and produced 2 eggs. Unfortunately, the eggs fell through the platform and did not hatch. He will be investigating the best way to proceed with restructuring the platform. He recognized and thanked everyone who helped build, launch, retrieve and store the platform over the years. More loons have been observed on the lake this year. It was reported that another pair built a natural nest at the east end of the lake.

No eaglets were observed this year.

Group discussion continued regarding wildlife on and around the lake.

It was reported that approximately two dozen white pelicans were seen on the lake.

Beavers were also discussed. Beaver can become a nuisance but they are also important to the Eco System. It was suggested to use chicken wire to protect trees if beaver become a problem.

**Water Level Report** – Jim Dodge provided detailed charts depicting water levels from 4/8/22 to 7/21/23. He stated that again this past winter we had less than 100 inches of snow. Inconsistent temperatures effected the ice this year. Ice out took place 3/23/23. The question was asked if it would help the fish to leave a board or two in to keep the lake level up during the winter. Jim said taking all boards out helps to prevent ice damage and helps to clean out the build up of silt. LPL has had a couple significant fish kills which have helped thin the gar fish and the desirable fish population thrives. Also, the fish ladder at the Deadstream bridge helps the migration of fish.

**Old Business:**

There was some discussion regarding Saffron Creek. It was stated again that no addition of guard rails is being planned at the culvert.

Mary Rupley reported on Garlic Mustard and that Deadstream Road is looking very good. She also stated some invasive Purple Loosestrife have been spotted. It can be controlled by cutting off the blooms or merely pulling the plant. It will not reseed.

**New Business:**

Dave Van Hammen again recognized Jerry Rupley and the outstanding work he accomplished during his time serving on the board of the Little Platte Lake Association. This was followed by a round of applause.

People have been observed feeding swans around our lake. Mary Lundeberg talked about how detrimental this can be. Feeding swans, or other waterfowl, the wrong food can cause a deformity called angel wings, which directly effects their ability to fly. Consider posting signs - please do not feed the swans or ducks. Also detrimental is the use of lead sinkers. One lead sinker can kill a 20 pound swan. Fishermen can ask for non-toxic sinkers as an alternative.

Election of officers was conducted by John Ester. A motion was made seconded and approved to re-elect our existing President – Dave Van Hammen, Secretary – Diane Brown and elect Mary Ann Tomaszewski as Trustee to replace Jerry Rupley.

No date was set for our 2024 annual meeting

There were 31 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Dave Van Hammen adjourned the meeting at 11:48 AM

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Brown, Secretary

August 1, 2023