

Diamond Lake Association
Annual Meeting
June 18, 2022

Board Attendance: Kelly Ball, Dave Bolen, Kevin Bradley, Kay Coffel, Sheryl DeLuca, Ted Ferris, David Gardner, Mike Guinane, John Hart, Mike Malone, Jennifer Molony, Bonnie Shaffer, Chris Stoler, David Trelease. Mick Tuesley, Debi Tuttle, Jerry VanDyke, Steve Wallace and Rick Weiss.

Member Attendance: 47 member households, 58 people and 19 proxies

Guests: Sheriff Richard Behnke, Undersheriff Clint Roach, Zach Bower (DNR), Paul Hausler (Progressive AE), Marcy Hamilton (SW MI Planning Commission) and Emilie LaGrow (Cassopolis Village Manager)

President Mike Malone called the DLA Annual Meeting to order at 9:00am. A quorum was certified by the Secretary. A motion was made/seconded to accept the June 26, 2021 DLA Annual Meeting minutes. Motion passed. Malone gave the guests the floor to speak.

Sheriff Behnke talked about enforcement on the lake. Two new PWCs have recently been purchased making response time quicker and maneuverability easier. Forty lakes are patrolled in Cass County. Undersheriff Roach heads up the Marine Patrol Division. Boater Safety Classes have resumed with the next one offered June 25 at the DLYC. All ages are encouraged to attend with no lower age limit. He stressed it is much better to take the class in person than online. Most complaints and accidents involve PWCs and noted the minimum age to operate a PWC alone is 18.

Several questions from the membership were directed to the DNR Officer, Zach Bower. There is a new fire extinguisher law, but violators will not be ticketed this season. The DLA will arrange for disposal of non working and old extinguishers. They should not be thrown in the trash. The policy on occupying a boat for an overnight stay on the lake needs to be clarified. Although annoying, the use of bright lights by fisherman at night is legal. Loud music at the sandbar is not being enforced. Officer Bower gave two phone numbers for the DNR. For general questions 269-685-6851. For complaints call 1-800-297-7800.

Paul Hausler of Progressive AE reported on the aquatic plant control program. The primary objective of the program is to prevent the spread of invasive plants while preserving beneficial plant species. Currently 18 acres of Diamond Lake are being treated 2 or 3 times yearly for invasive aquatic growth. Twenty years ago 60 acres were treated. He noted there is no change in fish population between lakes that apply treatment and lakes that do not. He rated the water quality of Diamond Lake as very good with a very good diversity of beneficial, native plant species. A printed copy of the program summary was available for all members.

Marcy Hamilton of the SW MI Planning Commission spoke of the coalition working together to develop a bike trail connecting Cassopolis to Vandalia and eventually to Dr. Lawless Park. The Villages of Cassopolis and Vandalia, Cass County Road Commission, CC Parks and Recreation, COA and Midwest Energy in addition to other county agencies are collaborating to make it happen. A motion was made and seconded (Shaffer/Gerber)

to enter into a non binding memorandum of understanding with the Bike Trail coalition to support the development of the Bike Trail. Motion passed.

The Cassopolis Village Manager, Emilie LaGrow reported 12 new businesses have opened in the last 2 years inside the village limits. A Smart Park is being developed near Midwest Energy with more business opportunities. A new theater and coffee shop recently opened next to Village Floral. The first theater performance was sold out. A new bakery and deli will open by the end of summer in the former Marcello's Pizza. Emilie's wish list for the future is for increased participation by lake residents and volunteers for the many groups in the county working on new projects.

Treasurer's Report: John Hart stated the DLA is in solid financial shape. There were 417 members in 2021, but help is needed in recruiting more this year. We are currently at 374 members. The 4th of July Fireworks continues to be self supporting from resident donations, but costs are increasing. The DLA has the financial strength to make an annual contribution to the Sheriff's Department for the purpose of improving water safety, enhance communication with the membership through upgraded social media and a new website, organize a local public officials reception to improve community relations and offer members the Riparian Magazine to improve lake preservation.

A motion was made and seconded (Paul/) to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

President's Report: Mike Malone honored 2 recently deceased Board Members with a moment of silence: Dave Bowers and Janeen Godfrey. He praised them for their years of service on the Board, Dave as Treasurer and Janeen as Community Relations Chair.

Retiring Board Members were recognized and thanked: Terry Gerber, Kaye Coffel, Fred Dean, Dave Trelease and Mike Malone. New Board Members in the last year were introduced: Sheryl DeLuca, Jennifer Molony, Mike Guinane, Kelly Ball, John Hart and Jerry VanDyke. Recently recruited are Mark Andersen, Kevin Bradley and Randy Muessig.

A motion was made and seconded (Paul/Wallace) to approve all new and continuing DLA Board Members. Motion passed.

President Elect: Dave Bolen introduced the officers for 2022-23. He will serve as President. Vice-President-Sheryl DeLuca, Secretary-Bonnie Shaffer, Treasurer-John Hart. Bolen reported for the By Laws Committee. A survey of 900 residents was taken earlier in the year. 155 responses were received, representing a 17% return.

Survey Summary:

- DLA serves the lake community

- Survey results were valid but on the low side of participation

- Strong confirmation that the current DLA focus areas are right

- Great interest in better communication

- Strong support for lake centered social activities

To reflect the results of the survey, the Board endorsed and recommends the following changes to Article II, Objectives or Purposes. The objectives or purposes of the corporation shall be as follows: (new wording in red)

1, 2 and 3 remain the same.

4. To act as a cohesive body to identify and pro-actively bring issues of interest or concern to all appropriate DLA stakeholders including but not limited to lake residents, lake users, press and governmental agencies.
5. To act as the “voice of Diamond Lake” utilizing our multiple communication platforms to communicate community events, opportunities for volunteerism, and other items that may be of interest to lake residents and:
6. To further develop a sense of community around the lake by organizing lake-wide social activities.

Additionally, Article 5 Board of Directors

Add to Section 4, Item 1 - Language to clarify board meetings and board voting can occur digitally.

A motion was made/seconded (Gardner/Wallace) to approve the Bylaw changes. Motion passed.

Committee chairs were introduced along with a brief summary of objectives for 2022.

Reprints of “A Diamond Sparkles” originally published in 1970 will soon be available for a \$30 donation. The membership Committee will coordinate distribution.

Bolen thanked President Malone for his tireless work on behalf of the DLA especially during the infamous Covid Sandbar Party year and presented him with a commemorative plaque. President Malone had a few closing remarks stating that he valued being President of an organization that worked to improve the quality of life around Diamond Lake.

Adjournment at 10:41am.

Bonnie Shaffer, Secretary

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Board Meeting
June 18, 2022

Present: Kelly Ball, Dave Bolen, Kevin Bradley, Sheryl DeLuca, Ted Ferris, David Gardner, Mike Guinane, John Hart, Bonnie Shaffer, Chris Stoler, Debi Tuttle, Jerry VanDyke, Steve Wallace.

President Dave Bolen called the meeting to order immediately following the Annual Meeting. A quorum was certified. The sole purpose of the meeting was to elect officers of the Board of Directors:

President-Dave Bolen
Vice President- Sheryl Deluca
Secretary-Bonnie Shaffer
Treasurer-John Hart

A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Bonnie Shaffer, Secretary

