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Houghton Lake Improvement Board Regular Meeting Minutes September 24, 2019

Call to order by Chairman Deamud at 7:00 pm.

Members present were Jack McCauley, Matt Peterson, David Russo, Rex Wolfsen, Keith Stiles James Deamud and Norm Fullmer.

Alternates present were Chip McCullough, Robyn Daniels and Lynn Baese. Dick Pastula, Howard Hatherly and Tim Muckenthaler were absent.

Motion by Mr Wolfsen and supported by Mr. Russo to approve the minutes of the July 23, 2019 meeting as presented. All members present voting in the affirmative the motion carries.

Motion by Mr. Wolfsen and supported by Mr. Russo to approve the agenda as presented. All members present voting in the affirmative the motion carries.

Motion Mr. Peterson and supported by Mr. Stiles to accept the following treasurer's report. Account balances as of 9-24-19 are Checking \$17,283.12, Money Market \$201,095.27 and a CD balance of \$302,900.96. Year to date expenses totaled \$279,005.12. Three invoices were presented for payment. Falkner Law for \$760.00, James Deamud for \$895.00 and PLM for \$1,287.50 All members present voting in the affirmative the motion carries.

HLLA-HLIB boat wash update-HLLA representative Pat Inman presented to the board the 2019 AIS Activity Report. 1585 boats were surveyed, 3638 boaters were interviewed and 222 boats were washed. A copy of the full report is attached.

Lake Township Report-Keith Stiles presented samples of wild rice and bull-rushes as there is some confusion at times regarding these two plants. He also showed a plant that was growing around some of the docks in Lake Township. Mike Solomon from RLS took the sample for identification.

Motion by Mr. Russo and supported by Mr. Wolfsen to certify the assessment roll for the 12-1-19 winter taxes. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. McCauley, Mr. Russo, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Wolfsen and Mr. Peterson. Mr. Fullmer abstained as he had prepared the roll. Motion carries.

Motion by Mr. Russo and supported by Mr. Stiles to set the assessment rate for the 12-1-19 winter taxes at \$100 per unit and \$50 per half unit. Members voting in favor were Mr. Stiles, Mr. Russo, Mr. Peterson, Mr. McCauley, Mr. Wolfsen and Mr. Fullmer. Motion carries.

Motion by Mr. Russo and supported by Mr. Peterson to set the 2020 regular meeting schedule as follows. January 28, March 24, May 26, July 28 and September 22. All meeting begin at 7 pm. Locations to be determined.

RLS Report-Mike Solomon representing RLS reported the cost of lake treatment totaled \$195,054 including permit. The projected cost of treatment for 2019 was \$225,000. Sculpin was applied to the SW corner of the lake and now there is an emergence native species. Solomon reported that 75 to 80 percent of the “middle grounds” looks good and that native species are re-emerging. RLS will be conducting a survey of the area in early October. Solomon stated RLS in conjunction with PLM, SePro Corp and EGLE are exploring using a combination of ProcellaCOR and Renovate OTF at lower rates in some areas. He also said that starry stonewort will be a problem in the future.

Motion by Mr. Stiles and supported by Mr. Wolfsen to accept an amendment to the 2019 RLS contract in the amount of \$3000. The amount is to cover additional testing required by EGLE(MDEQ). Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. McCauley, Mr. Russo, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Wolfsen, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Fullmer. Motion carries.

Motion by Mr. Peterson and supported by Mr. Wolfsen to approve the 2020 RLS contract in the amount of \$67,568. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. McCauley, Mr. Russo, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Wolfsen, Mr. Peterson and Mr. Fullmer. Motion carries.

An opinion letter from Falkner Law Office PC was included in board members packet. The letter addresses two issues that were raised at the July 23, 2019 regular meeting. The opinion states that “the HLIB is not prohibited from planting wild rice by the founding resolutions of the four townships or the Act, however, members with a potential conflict of interest should recuse themselves from voting on the decision to plant wild rice as a best practice to avoid the appearance of impropriety and to uphold the fiduciary duty to the public and the HLIB.” A copy of the opinion letter is attached.

Motion by Mr. Wolfsen and supported by Mr. Stiles to proceed with the budgeted Wild Rice project. Project cost cannot exceed the budgeted amount of \$15,000. Project to be located in the “Muddy Bay” area and is not to exceed 50 acres. No planting within one quarter mile of shoreline. RLS to contact Dr. Scott Herron to determine cost and feasibility for a 2019 planting. Members voting in favor of the motion were Mr. McCauley, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Wolfsen and Mr. Fullmer. Mr. Russo opposed the motion and Mr. Peterson abstained. The motion carries.

Motion by Mr. Wolfsen and supported by Mr. Russo to adjourn at 8:35 pm. All members present voting in the affirmative the motion carries.

Next Scheduled Regular Meeting
Location to TBD
January 28, 2020
7 pm

Respectfully submitted
Norm Fullmer
Secretary-Treasurer