

Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association

www.hardwoodlake.org



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Fall 2020

The newsletter is
in **color** on the website and Facebook.

Fall colors along the north shore on a bright fall morning. Hopefully normal times will resume next summer following COVID .

See the photo in color on the web.



July 18 was a busy Saturday for lake residents. Two Hardwood Lake public hearings took place. The first two meetings were about continuing lake treatment. They were followed by the annual meeting.

The first public hearing was one of practi-

cability, that is to determine if the lake weed control project should continue. The second was the determination to set the rates for the Special Assessment District.

For over 20 years there has been a lake weed control project which is paid for by a

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For updated information click on *late breaking news* link on the **HOME** page



Paul Hausler, center, makes his presentation during the July public hearing. The meeting was held outside with social distancing because of COVID.

special assessment tax. The initial project was aimed at controlling non-native invasive weeds and has evolved to include other undesirable weeds and algae.

The decision was made to proceed for another five years, starting in 2021 until 2025 with an annual budget of \$33,000. The scope of the project includes aquatic weed control through herbicide treatments and mechanical harvesting, aquatic plant control, coordination/field evaluations, hydro-acoustic mapping, administration and contingencies.

At the Special Assessment District hearing the tax rates were set at \$376 per year for lakefront parcels and \$188 per year for back lot parcels.

During the first hearing Paul Hausler of Progressive Engineering discussed some of the challenges we are facing from exotic invasive weeds, including Eurasian Milfoil, Curly Leaf

pondweed and Starry Stonewort. We are required to have a state permit to treat the lake. Paul will survey the lake for the target weeds and order the herbicide treatments. He then returns to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment and authorizes payment.

There has been an abundance of nuisance algae and that is also treated. He said he has seen a lot of it in down-state lakes.

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The lake water comes from runoff of about 4,000 acres. It is not spring or river fed. There was some concern that agriculture to the northeast of the lake, which is the primary watershed area, was contributing to the algae in the lake. During the four-year study Paul said there was not evidence that agriculture was a contributing factor.

A few years ago the Lake Association purchased a boom to place across some ditch areas in the northeast corner of the lake in an attempt to contain algae. Paul felt it was doing a good job at controlling algae and other aquatic plants from floating through the



The July 4th boat parade was a hit for both the boaters and spectators on shore.

swamp and into the lake. Another 100 feet will be purchased through tax funds in an attempt to prevent more algae from entering the lake.

Paul makes regular inspections and prescribes treatment then notifies the treatment contractor using GPS locations. The treatment maps are posted on our Facebook page and on our website under Late Breaking News. If you have specific concerns please contact Lake Board representative David Sommers.

His contact information is in the masthead.

One of the treatment restrictions put on us by the State is that algae can only be treated out to 100 feet from shore or to a water depth of five feet. In addition only 100 feet of any property can be treated. Treatments are done in the populated shore areas.

The Lake Board also approved high-definition hydro-acoustic mapping of the lake. This will be a high resolution sonar mapping of the lake bottom. The last time depths were obtained was in the early 1940's and was done in the winter by dropping weighted lines through holes in the ice. Much has changed over the years. The new mapping details will help determine treatments in the lake.

The next Lake Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 11, 2021 at 7:00 pm at the Logan Township Hall.

www.michiganlakeinfo.com has a lot of good information.

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Hardwood Lake Property Owners Association held the annual meeting following the public hearings. (continued pg. 4)

Secretary/Treasurer Margo Dees reported 50 paid members. About half of the property owners pay dues.

The Association purchased 10 more 'Kids at Play' signs. If you would like one contact Clay or Margo Dees.

President Kevin Ohlrogge proposed placing a couple of warning buoys at the shallow area near the boat launch. There was some concern about liability. Members voted not to go ahead.

In the meantime an application was made to the State

DNR for a permit to place the buoys, which was eventually turned down by the State.

The sign along Henderson Lake Road has been in place for about 15 years and is starting to show age. It's a long time for an outdoor sign with Michigan winters and hot summer days taking its toll. A new vinyl sign has been ordered and should be installed around Labor Day by Association members.

The Association picnic was revived in 2018 after a several year lapse. The picnic had been planned for 2020 but due to Covid it was postponed until June 26, 2021. More information will be in the Spring newsletter.

The third annual boat parade will be July 4, 2021.

Clay Dees was re-elected Vice President and Margo Dees accepted another term as Secretary/Treasurer.

Three gift certificates from Jacksonville Store were raffled with the winners being George McClain, Sharon Brandon and Margo Dees.

The next Lake Association meeting will be held 9:00 am, July 3, 2021 at the Logan Township Hall.

About the property owners association

There have been a few questions regarding the Property Owners Association and the Lake Board.

The Lake Board is a governmental group consisting of elected local officials and a representative of the Lake Association. It was



This little one enjoys a bite of ice cream during the second annual ice cream social on the lake

formed under the Michigan Inland Lake Improvement Act. Because the lake is located in both Richland and Logan Townships, there is a representative from each township, the county Drain Commissioner and a County Board member. Its purpose is to oversee the lake weed control

project and levy special assessments, which are on your Winter tax bill, to cover the costs of the program.

The Property Owners Association is more of a social group, working to make improvements at the lake. The Association is NOT like a home owners association with many rules governing such things like the color you can paint or the number of shrubs in the yard.

This newsletter is paid for by Association members. It is a conduit to keep residents informed. The Association also maintains both a web and Facebook site. The Association is responsible for the sign on Henderson Lake Road and Gillings Road. They organize the semi-annual picnic, the July 4th boat parade, kayak the lake event and ice cream social on the lake. The association also has made the yellow "kids at play" sign.

It is discouraging that only meetings half of the residents belong to the association.

Because of the lack of participation, we may not mail newsletters to non-members in the future.

Review tax bill address

For the two public hearings that were held, all property owners of record were mailed a legal notice to inform them of the meetings. The addresses used were the ones on record with the county. This would be the same address where your tax bill would be sent.

Several letters were returned with invalid addresses.

If you did not receive the legal notice in early July check with your township to make sure they have the correct address for you.

One example was a resident taking over the property from a family member. The tax address was his dad's home. His dad had since moved and left no forwarding address so the letter was not delivered.

If tax bills go three years without payment the property could end up in a tax sale and you could lose your property.

Possible natural gas service

Recently a lake resident contacted DTE Energy about the possibility of bringing natural gas to the area.

A company representative did a survey and counted a total of 76 houses to be included in the project.



DTE needs 46 residents to sign up the first year at a cost of \$3,420 lump sum or the option of putting it on their monthly gas bill for \$43.79/month for 10 years.

This possible service would only be available for homes on Henderson Lake Road and Hardwood Heights.

Please go to <https://bit.ly/34cK2LK> for an online survey whether you want gas service or not. Please complete survey by September 30, 2020 so DTE has a better understanding of the interest in gas service. If you have questions email Cortney L Robertson cortney.robertson@dteenergy.com

Goose hunt?

Jeff Walser is proposing a goose hunt this fall. If you are interested contact him. His contact information is in the masthead.

Of course all hunting laws would apply.



Clay Dees chats with a kayaker as his grandchildren, Carson, 2, and Parker, 6, enjoy ice cream. That's Grandma Margo looking on behind the boys along with mom Lindsey Johnson.

• **Its the law** •

**High speed
boating hours
11 am - 7:30 pm**

Local laws adopted by the State of Michigan allow high speed boating on Hardwood Lake between the hours of 11:00 am and 7:30 pm Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

High speed boating is defined as the boat being on plane.

DNR SPECIAL LOCAL
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DNR Administrative Rule R281.765.14
Adopted November 1, 1977

Looking for something
to do?

Check out local area websites
for current activities.

www.westbranch.com

www.tawas.com

www.ogemawherald.com

www.visitwestbranch.com

The sites are linked on

www.hardwoodlake.org

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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