



Lake Orono Improvement Association INC.

Annual Meeting MINUTES March 10, 1998

Prior to the meeting we had a presentation by Mike Halvorson, Aquatic Plants Division, Department of Natural Resources. He went over the importance of buffer zones, where a strip of native vegetation is used along the shore and/or in the water to provide filtration for nutrients, fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and also deters Canadian geese from encroaching on lawns. He also confirmed that we do not need fertilizer with any phosphorous in our area.

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Vance Zehringer.
2. Introductions:
 - a. New members: Ramona Dubay, District 1; Joe & Cindy Brandenburg, Stan & Sandy Denne, Ann & Dave Johnson, District 5; Janet & Jeff Vassar, Al & Linda Kopp, District 6; Darlene Smith, District 7.

II. REPORTS

1. The minutes of the last meeting on March 20, 1997 were read; minutes stood approved as read.
2. Treasurer's Report: Rickie Buttweiler was not in attendance; no report was given.
3. Committee Reports:
 - a. Water Level and Flow: Vance Zehringer. In October, the lake was drained in increments so that approximate quantities of silt to be excavated could be studied for our proposed lake project. Vance received one other call in August, but the water had not been let out, it was naturally low.
 - b. Safety Committee: No report
 - c. Communications: Cindi Edwards-Plant. Cindi had assembled Shoreline Best Management Practices packets for the membership, which were handed out at the door.

- d. Pollution: Vance Zehringer. Vance takes SECCHI disk tests during the summer for water clarity in 3 different sections; the results are usually pretty steady where he can see the disk at 2-2 1/2 feet.
- e. Conservation: no active members. Gerry Palmer agreed to be on this committee.
- f. Membership: no report.
- g. Sedimentation Task Force: Patrick Plant. He thanked the mayor, Hank Duitsman and Steve Rohlf for their contributions on this committee. The lake project was discussed at a general public meeting on January 15th. It was shown on cable TV and LOIA also has video tapes available.

Meetings coming up regarding the lake project: Conditional use permit to be reviewed by the Planning Commission on March 24th, regarding the disposal sites of the excavated material.

Discussion ensued. Vance Zehringer said that if the project is not done this year, the land will be developed, and assessment and trucking costs will double.

Steve Rohlf said there is no immediate development, but sewer and water will be put through. The costs include 28% overhead; he hopes this is high; it is the figure used to bid sewer projects.

John MacGibbon asked if the City will pay their assessments, Mayor Hank Duitsman said yes. The City will bond for the proposal; it does not have the funds.

Larry Hickman said we should go for digging more out; Steve said the permits are already in and there is no more room for disposal. The farthest lobe will be 3' deep, lake was never much deeper than that. Patrick Plant said the farthest lobe will act as a sedimentation basin. Steve said this is a significant project; it will last a reasonable amount of time.

John MacGibbon asked about federal funding; Steve said he talked to Rep. Oberstar, but there is no money for this type of project. It doesn't do anything for water quality, only the sedimentation.

Mike Dahlheimer asked about some humps off Simonet; Steve said you need a permit for anything done below the high water mark. It is a good time to do any work, such as retaining walls. Several homeowners are doing their own dredging projects.

Gerry Palmer asked who will write the specs for the project. Steve said the City Engineer will.

Someone asked about what if you want the dirt; Steve said it will add to the current cost and you will have to have plans detailing the disposal.

Steve mentioned other dates to attend: April 20th City Council meeting will vote on a conditional use permit; April 13th there will be a public hearing on the project. The assessment hearing will be June 29th, with a 30-day appeal period; if a lot of people appeal, the project won't be ordered. We should be getting a mailed notice about the hearing.

The Historical Society questioned the disposal on Cemetery Point; this could seriously hinder putting dirt on it. A dig may have to be done to evaluate it.

Gerry Palmer asked why we were being asked to fund 50% of the project. Steve said the \$2,200 assessment per unit was a compromise; some on the Council felt it should be even higher, some lower.

Donovan Grossen said we are paying taxes for the project and also general city taxes for it; our taxes are already high. Mayor Duitsman said if you have a problem with the assessment, go to the City Council, that's where the cost is being set.

Harry Kreuser asked if there was a magic number on the appeals to vote the project down; Duitsman said the Council will not vote for it if there are too many appeals. Can always amend an assessment downward, but can't raise it. If bids come in a little higher, assessments won't go up.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Lake Day, a conference sponsored by the SWCD and Sherburne County Extension, is May 16th at the Big Lake Legion.
2. Dates were approved for '98-'99 events:
 - a. Smelt Fry – May 21, 1998
 - b. Progressive Dinner – July 9, 1998
 - c. Luau on the Lake. Last year this was Sept. 13th. Because the lake will be down, it was decided to wait until the Smelt Fry to set a date, if any.
 - d. 1999 Annual Meeting – March 9, 1999
3. User/parking fees at the beach. Patrick Plant reported on this. It could be a potential funding mechanism for water quality. The Task Force discussed this, but determined it was politically not good to push for it this year. We should have people monitor use at the beach, then come up with a plan for next year. Bob Swappach asked about the legislation about jet skis; our lake is over the 200 acre limit, so it would not affect us if it is passed.
8. Election of Officers/Reps.

Jim Mulroy will be President.

Nominations:

Vice President: Donn Granros

Secretary: No one volunteered at this time. (Note: Betty Zehringer volunteered at a later date)

Parliamentarian: Vern Draxler

District 1 Rep: Linda Turner

District 1 Alternate: Karen Dehrer

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District 2 Alternate: Sandy Weicht

District 5 Rep: Jim Snetsinger

District 5 Alternate: Tom Rule said his wife Bonnie would be the alternate

District 7 Alternate: Miles Knutsen

A unanimous ballot was asked for; moved, seconded, carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m. by Jim Mulroy.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindi Edwards-Plant

Secretary