

Informational Meeting – Ausable Lake Property Owners Association (ALPOA)

Saturday, July 8, 2023

The meeting began at 10:00 am.

Dan Kocis (Alcott Dr.) welcomed the 55 attendees and began by sharing his desire to form a volunteer association consisting of property owners from each Ausable Lake subdivision to support a common interest in the care, maintenance, and support of the Lake. He acknowledged that a couple of subdivision-specific associations existed with some often limited to caring for the subdivision's private road. No single organization represents Ausable Lake. Dan noted that 188 households were identified as lakefront property owners.

Dan Kocis shared his thoughts on the proposed Ausable Lake Property Owners Association (ALPOA). Key content reviewed by the group during the first half of the meeting included:

- Draft mission statement- ...cooperate with and respect the rights of all property owners, to help secure improvements, and to aid in maintaining and improving lake conditions by assisting and cooperating with all existing subdivisions, and federal and state government agencies for the benefit of all.
- Prospective benefits of an association - cohesive interaction with other entities, fish fund and supplemental stocking program, lake health monitoring, and representation with township, county, and state governments.
- A review of other lake associations' successes – Long Lake, Loon Lake, Sage Lake, Jose Lake
- ALPOA organization structure, roles, and option
- Prospective leadership duties
- Suggested committees to support the various needs of the association, including Social, Lake study, Fish, Waterfowl management, and communications.
- Next steps, include following up with meeting minutes, entity formation, creation of bylaws, communicating with all lake property owners, and scheduling the next group meeting.

Dan opened the floor to comments and questions & answers among the group. Representative comments, questions, and associated responses included:

- Larry Rajewski (Canal) suggested that consideration should be given to including backlot property owners in the association to help contribute financially. Dan recommended that we limit for now lakefront property owners, but consider others in the future.
- Cathy Walling (Big Buck Trail) asked for a description of a Wash Station which Dan provided. Peggy Kay (Alcott Dr.) shared that the State periodically offers \$3,000 grants to help offset the cost of Wash Stations.
- Denise Brown (Ausable Dr.) noted that several subdivisions were already represented by an association and questioned which organization would take precedence, the subdivision association or ALPOA. Dan noted details would need to be discussed and worked out in coordination.
- Katie and Ernie Hinderliter (Duggan Dr.) noted the ALPOA is needed to represent all subdivisions and that a representative association would be most effective with external entities.
- Leslie McNenly (Duggan Dr.) shared that a volunteer-based, cooperative group will be helpful by opening up communications.

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- Lou Ianitelli (W.Canal) noted that a lake-based association would be most effective to pursue grant funding and shared that the past gypsy moth remediation effort required spot spraying rather than more effectively addressing the larger lake.
- Several discussed how ALPOA would be different than existing subdivision associations, including Mike Pettis (Alcott Dr.), Julie Burnett (Ausable Dr.), and Dana Ulmer (Ausable Dr.). Dan noted that ALPOA will focus on the lake and not roads or subdivision-specific needs.
- Several, including Mike Gonda (Big Buck Trail), Chris Sliotti (Ausable Dr.) Julie Burnett (Ausable Dr.) and Lou Ianitelli (W.Canal) also discussed lake weeds and ways to approach their management, including the State of Michigan, Special Assessment Districts, and Lake Boards. Dan Kocis noted that the topic merited further discussion in the future.
- Alyssa Kocis (Alcott Dr.) shared that ALPOA can offer many positive benefits, including fostering a stronger community and offering beneficial programs like boater safety for residents.
- Rick Walters (Big Buck Trail) shared that getting lake property owners together is good and helps to create awareness for the betterment of the lake. Peggy Kay (Alcott Dr.) shared that taking advantage of the knowledge (i.e., legal) and expertise of property owners will help us all and that we're better when we work together.

Dan Kocis requested the help of all interested parties. Presentation materials and meeting minutes will be distributed.

Dan thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 11:08 am.