

Beaches and Rights of Ways (ROWS) Committee Meeting

October 13, 2021 at the Oakland ROW

Meeting was called to order at 6:07 by chairperson, Teri Nixon.

Members present: Karen Hinch, Kathey Garvie, Kathy Feldman, Mary Withey, John Slaughenwhite, Maureen Dagon, Teri Nixon, Jody Stubbings and Patty Arnestad.

Guests present: Karen Patterson, BOD, Donna Jiffo, Jeff Arpin and Duncan Keith

Minutes of September 8, 2021 motion to approve by Patty Arnestad, seconded by Jody Stubbings.

Announcement of one of our committee volunteers, Marge Nichols, being in the hospital after a serious incident while bike riding, details sent out to the committee members to keep her in our thoughts and prayers. Updates will be forthcoming by email, as available regarding her progress.

Main Beach:

Needs a new volleyball net. The previous one has sustained significant damage and is no longer usable. Maureen Dagon had made the purchase of the net a couple of years ago, (reimbursed by the BOD) and it had been put up during Covid 19, but taken down, and this year it was put up but appeared to be vandalized and destroyed. Replacement is still undecided, since it only had one year of use, before it was destroyed.

Elsmere ROW:

Sludge that was in the lake has been raked out, will need to be picked up during the fall clean up, with other leaves raked out of the lake. Elsmere boat racks had 8-9 spaces vacant all summer.

Special Report by Jeff Arpin:

Jeff, from our Lake Health Committee, explained some options for erosion control, including what "berms" are and how they might be helpful to prevent road sand, leaves, twigs, etc, from washing into the lake. Committee discouraged Oakland for such an option, members suggested a smaller, less used ROW, such as Elsmere to try it out sometime in the future, and favored the temporary nature of anything at the edge of the lake.

Also larger rocks in the spillways/rock beds catch more debris on its way down to the lake (NOTE: Oakland spillway has smaller rocks at this time, from the plunge pool to the lake, Elsmere has the larger rocks)

Murky water in the lake was discussed, as it was 5 meters of visibility last year at this time, and only 2.4 meters this year. Our lake limnologist thinks it might be due to the excessive rainfall. He will be looking at this, and hopefully the Lake Health Committee will have an explanation to why the water is so murky.

Lebanon has excessive salt content in the road sand, a 2:1 ratio, which may increase next year. This is unhealthy for the lake due to the phosphorous and nitrogen in road salt. Residents need to be aware and educate themselves about this issue, to protect the lake, and organize under direction of the Board to petition Lebanon concerning this issue. The Committee is requesting the Lake Health Committee and the BOD keep residents informed concerning the Lebanon road salt issue.

The Hebron side of the lake has 4-foot catch basins, which is a good thing for keeping the water clean before it enters the lake thru storm drains, plunge pools, etc, but Lebanon has no basin sumps so what goes in the catch basin goes to the lake.

Francis ROW:

The concrete retaining wall has fallen into the lake. The owner had been notified at the beginning of the summer, that it needed repair, but they were not at the lake to take care of it. The BOD should be sending another letter to the home owner to inform them about the wall being in the lake. The committee agrees that if a retaining wall holds back earthen materials, it needs to be in place to keep dirt and debris from washing into the lake. Also, the boundaries at this ROW are unclear, and it would be helpful to know what area belongs to the residents and what is private property.

Oakland ROW:

Bushes were trimmed a bit too aggressively and the resident who owns the bushes in question was displeased with the severity of the cutting and complained to the ALD Board about their privacy being disturbed. After reviewing the site, the Board decided to consider planting a few bushes next spring to replace some of the damaged bushes.

Roving Checkers will be considered by the Board to monitor the ROWs next summer. This will be helpful at Oakland ROW, which had many dogs visiting the water this summer, in spite of the ordinance not to allow dogs from April to October. Stewards reported being berated by residents when they reminded them of the dog ordinance. NOTE: Last year, Oakland had many non-residents come to swim, during the Covid closure of public lakes and beaches, Roving Checkers would also be helpful to curb this problem in the future, as it has helped at Main Beach and Lollipop.

Meadowbrook ROW:

Plunge pool may need to be cleaned out, as reported by the steward, but the beach area is staying clean. Another Boat Rack would be useful, but finding space appropriate at the ROW would need some examination of the area.

Cove ROW:

Steward reported that it has been raked several times, but that the stones are migrating into the lake, especially after the last heavy rain. The pipe going into the plunge pool from the storm drain has sand in it and needs to be checked, and the plunge pool needs to be checked for weed and brush removal.

Lollipop Beach:

Steward reported that the fence for the porta-potti needs to be replaced with pressure-treated lumber. It was reported the bench at Lollipop was uneven but has since been fixed.

Ryan Terrace ROW:

Signs need to be removed and boat rack moved. Silt fence should be installed early November.

Spafford ROW:

Rocks had been put in place to repair the driveway but a truck backed down and eroded it again. The Board had suggested using large boulders, or poles to stop vehicles from backing down the steep grade at the ROW and eroding the driveway. The poles should stop vehicles, but allow residents to pass thru with their boats.

Fall Clean-Up Weekend:

Committee decided to allow clean up dates between November 6-20, instead of designating specific weekends, since it has to happen after the all leaves fall, and they have just begun to fall. Committee members may join up with others, volunteer neighbors and residents, and rake leaves out of the lake, then contractors will pick them up and haul them away. Large rakes and tarps will be made available, and are stored in the shed on Main Beach. (Call Maureen to get tarps or rakes)

Karen Patterson, Board of Directors:

Reported on progress with Lake Manager position being explored. She will be meeting with the committees to help devise the job responsibilities, etc. Also researching salaries, roles and responsibilities with other lakes that have a similar position. She indicated that the Board is looking for someone who is a community member of Amston Lake, and will probably be a part time position.

BOATS ARE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE LAKE RACKS BY NOVEMBER 1st.

Next Meeting: November 10, Wednesday at 6PM at the clubhouse. (Masks are requested for those who are not vaccinated)

Motion to Adjourn at 7:10 by Mary Withey, seconded by EVERYONE. (dark and mosquitoes biting!!)

Respectfully Submitted by Maureen Dagon