

Magician Lake  
Improvement Association  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
JULY 24, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM by President Mick Braman. Board members in attendance were Mick Braman, President, Dan Kuruzar, Vice-president, Nick Barnes, Treasurer, Bill Boehnlein, Secretary and Board members Don Blackmond Sr, Julie Tirotta and Jan Barkell.

Mick then asked each board member to introduce themselves and where they are located on the lake. He also stated that the board regularly meets every month, and all board members are full time residents. This enables the board to address any issues and projects on a timely basis. He further stated that we maintain a facebook page and a web site to allow all members to get up to date information.

A proposed agenda was available for all attendees. A copy of that is attached.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited by all in attendance.

Mick then introduced Cass County Marine Patrol Officer and Undersheriff Clint Roach.

Clint started by stated that the marine patrol will not have any PWC's available this year. They were previously donated for their use every summer. But the pandemic has eliminated their availability this year. This leaves the patrol with 3 boats to cover all the lakes in their coverage area. He also stated that their budget in 2001 was approximately \$70,000. In 2021, it is \$24,000. This is paid for by revenue from boat registrations. They would like to increase the price for this registration. But it requires state legislation to pass it. Cass County Sheriff Richard Behnke then joined Cliff and stated that their coverage is approximately 140 lakes. They cover about 40 of them regularly. He said that Magician gets the second most coverage every season. A question from the floor asked what we can do to make our lake safer. Sheriff Behnke stated that primarily education is the single most important thing to make everyone aware of the laws. He also reported that they no longer offer in person boater safety classes. This, in their opinion, reduces to significance of the certificate and the knowledge gained. He also stated that the buoys being placed around the lake to attempt to identify swim areas are illegal. He said that the marine patrol can enforce this law. They will usually approach the property owner first to give them the opportunity to remove them. But they can confiscate them if the owner refuses to remove them. He also said that you can't restrict traffic flow with the buoys or placement of swim rafts. Several of the attendees reported that there are way too many instances of coming to close to piers, rafts, and other boats. Cliff stated that the 100-foot rule is not in effect if the vessel is operating at no wake speed. But he further added that the 100-foot rule applies not only to the vessel, but also anyone being towed behind the vessel.

One of the attendees related that he had an adult guest being hit by a PWC. He stated that the PWC was operated by an adult with an adult passenger. They had borrowed the PW from a friend. He also gave credit to the Cass Sheriff's department who worked with the Van Buren

County Sheriff to resolve this incident. He concluded that the person responsible did get prosecuted in IL and received a 30-day sentence. Cliff added that the vessel's owner also bears responsibility and can be ticketed and/or prosecuted. He further stated that a 14-year-old was pulled over 3 times and eventually the father was ticked. Another attendee stated that they have a motion activated camera on the end of their pier to potentially record violators. Cliff added that, if you file the complaint, you may be required to testify in court.

An attendee asked about securing vessels with augured posts as most do when docking on the sand bar. Sheriff Behnke and Undersheriff Roach both commented that, if they're used for temporary mooring, they are no different than anchoring a vessel and are legal/

Another attendee questioned about a boat operating at night with extremely bright lights. Cliff remarked that there is really nothing they can do.

Mick then thanked both officers for their time and efforts. He then introduced Ronnie Kay, a Dewey Lake resident, and a consultant for RLS.

Ronnie began by reporting that the lake clarity is good with a 29.4-foot reading. She also reported that the Eurasian Milfoil was at about 9 acres and Curly Pond Leaf at 6.9 acres. She said that the silver creek portion of the lake was treated earlier this year. She said they use satellite data to locate the areas and generate computer images to track what treatments are applied and where. She added that the invasive species are mostly found in and around the channels. She then reported that they also found Starry Stonewort in the channels but there is no current treatment for it. The large amount of recent rain (5-7 inches) promoted this by washing nutrients from the land into the water. You can only rake and pull out these weeds. She stated that carp are helpful to the lake and zebra mussels help to keep the lake clean. She also talked about the different aquifers and that Magician has mostly a marl bottom. A question was raised about jelly fish, and she responded that they have been reported recently in Dewey but not in Magician. She said that both hard seawalls and lawns going down to the lakeshore contribute to the nutrients which support weed growth. She added that lily pads are good for fish. They provide a good hiding place for the fish and have an antibacterial slime which helps heal wounded fish.

A question was raised about treating the Keeler township portion of the Lake. Ronnie commented that, she was no aware of any treatments for approved areas of this portion of the lake. VP Dan Kuruzar reported the portions of the lake in Keeler have been treated. He added that the initial voluntary contribution for those approving of the treatment for their areas still has over \$6,000 remaining in the fund. His contact, Andy from PLM handles treatment of these areas. Ronnie stated that she will remap this area again and make this data available to Andy and the association. Ronnie also commented that the best treatment for lawn is to water them with lake water instead of fertilizers.

Mick then reported that Sister Lakes VFD Captain Anthony Lozada sent his regrets that he was unable to attend today's meeting. But did give an update about the second station being built on Leach Road just south of M152 is expected to be complete by this fall.

Mick thanked Ronnie for her participation and opened the floor for comments and questions. Consensus among attendees was the concern for safety on the lake. Comments ranged from speeds of both pontoons and PWC, high wakes, operating in the wrong direction (particularly

bass tournament participants) and exceeding the 100-foot rule at speeds faster than no wake speed. One comment was to place a sign right at the public access ramp about these rules. Mick stated that a sign about the rules is currently at the access but not directly at the ramp. Julie Tirota said that maybe door tags with the rules could be placed on each resident's door like the fireworks and meeting/membership reminder. The board will take this into consideration.

Another comment was the use of the Polk channel. They would greatly appreciate any help they can get to keep this attraction navigable.

Comments and questions were raised about the lake water level. Bill Boehnlein reported that the current level was around 8 inches over what the court ordered level should be. One attendee commented that he had moved here about five years ago. Bill commented that that was about when the higher levels started with increased rain throughout the area feeding this entire watershed. Don Blackmond added that Silver Creek should be classified as a drain to allow the drain commissioner the ability to address any obstructions to the flow. He also recommended that volunteers walk the creek to identify and possibly remove any obstructions to the flow. Ronnie added that actions can be requested through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). She added that it is a long and very costly endeavor.

Mick then thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Magician Lake Improvement Association Annual Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Opening Remarks
3. Area Police Report, and Marine Patrol Update. Sheriff Richard Behnke, and Undersheriff Clint Roach
4. Fire and Safety Update. Captain Anthony Lozada with the Sister Lakes Fire Department
5. State of the Lake for Magician Lake. Veronnica Towne, (Ronnie Kay), Lake Consultant with Restorative Lake Sciences.
6. Public Comments