Lake of the Pines Association Inc.

7257 Ashard Road Lake, MI 48632

Phone: (989) 588-9304 Fax: (989) 588-4145

Lake of the Pines Board Meeting Notes

July 13, 2024

OPENING

Eric Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. There were 62 Association Members present. Eric started the meeting, joined by all present, by saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

2022-2025	2023-2026	2024-2027
Geri Shaw	Cheryl Dziurkowski	Cindy LaFave
Teri Morrow-Sutton	Jon Thomas	Gerry Broski
David Lynch	Clayton Basler	Vicki Brauner
Rod Saunders	Eric Williams	Dave Borle

ROLL CALL

Roll Call was taken. Jon Thomas was absent and excused. Cindy LaFave joined the meeting via telephone. All other board members present.

LOP BUSINESS MOTIONS

Motion was made by **Rod Saunders**, and second by **Dave Lynch**, to accept the June Board of Directors Meeting Minutes June 8, 2024. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed**.

Motion was made by **Cheryl Dziurkowski**, and second by **Rod Saunders**, to accept the Minutes of the Board of Directors Emergency Meeting on June 10th, 2024. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed**.

Motion was made by **Cheryl Dziurkowski**, and second by **Rod Saunders**, to accept the Minutes of Board of Directors Werb-ex Meeting held on June 24, 2024. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed**.

Motion was made by **Cheryl Dziurkowski**, and second by **Rod Saunders**, to remove Rick McCombe and Rod Saunders from the bank account and add Eric Williams and Gerry Broski to the bank account. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed**

Motion was made by **Dave Lynch**, and seconded by **Eric Williams** to approve spending \$1,200 to fix the John Deere tractor. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed.**

Motion was made by **Teri Morrow-Sutton**, and seconded by **Geri Shaw** to approve payment of bills from June totaling \$44,991.72. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed.**

Motion was made by **Teri Morrow-Sutton**, and seconded by **Cindy LaFave** to increase the employee salaries of Kim and Alan retroactive to July 1, 2024, based on yearly evaluation results and Employment Start Date. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed.**

Motion was made by **Geri Shaw**, and seconded by **Teri Morrow-Sutton** to sell the 2nd sound system in the garage sale and give the money to the LOP office general fund. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed.**

BOD SUB-COMMITTEE CONFIRMATIONS

Eric Williams asked Geri Shaw if she would accept the Nominating/Ballot Counting Director position. Geri Shaw said "YES." Vote was taken. MOTION PASSED. Geri Shaw remains responsible for the Nominating/Ballot Counting Director position.

Eric Williams asked **Rod Saunders** if he would accept the **Amenities Director position. Rod Saunders** said "YES." Vote was taken. **MOTION PASSED.** Rod Saunders is responsible for the Amenities Director position.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



OFFICER'S REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Eric Williams

- We're here to ensure that our LOP Association members know that we are continually working in the best interest of our association. We attempt to always do this but sometimes we miss the mark and sometimes we do not, but we are always trying. Reminder that we are all volunteers here on this BOD. We are human and sometimes we make mistakes but we ask for your patience and understanding.
- Office Infrastructure: We had a power surge from the last big storm which
 destroyed some of our office computer equipment. It became an
 emergency and we had to replace the equipment in an effort to keep our
 office functional.
- Closure of the Larch and Evergreen Boat Launches: Thank you to the
 association members that approached our BOD to express their concerns
 regarding our decision to lock the Larch and Evergreen Boat Launches.
 The feedback we received helped us to understand how our decision
 impacts the association and allowed us the opportunity to explain how we
 came to this decision.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Gerry Broski

Capital Projects for Evaluation

Project	Estimate	Priority
Bridge State of the State of th	\$75k x 2 = \$150k	1.
LOP Dr. paving	\$39k	
Website, WIFI, Office infrastructure	\$8k + monthly software costs	1
Locate and map gas line	\$2k	
Security gates for campground, PI and boat ramps	\$25k	
Electronic sign	\$10k	
Pool cover	\$8k	2
Campground electrical upgrade	\$10k	
Nature trails	\$5k	
Canal dredging	\$200k+	
Pool house renovation	\$8k	
Office renovation	\$2k	

- We will be working on a three-year plan on where we want to be in three
 years and set priorities on how we will meet our goals.
- Part of our list of Capital Improvements is to upgrade our Nature trails.
 Below are the first steps taken to improve our Bird Sanctuary trails.
 Thank you to Michael Henry's Tree Service who donated (5) truckloads of wood chip and our volunteers who spread the chips on the walking trails.
 Be sure to let our donors know how much we appreciate their donations.

Idle Acres or Idyl Acres?

- ▶ LOP has a designated 45 acre Bird and Animal Sanctuary, off Tamarack with trails, but it has fallen into disuse (Idle Acres).
- Will be a super area to promote relaxation, walking, communing with nature, and be an asset to LOP (Idyl Acres).
- Trails will be improved with wood chips. Wildflowers and birdhouses can add to the experience, but we want to keep the area natural.
 - ▶ Clubs make birdhouse kits?
- We received five truck loads of wood chips, donated by Henry's Tree Service In Harrison. More wood chips are coming.

Requirements

Requirements	Source		
Wood chips (tons)	Network & advertise for donations or purchase		Gerry
Birdhouses & owl houses	Donations or kits from clubs		Dawn
Map and trail markers	Donations		
Benches & picnic tables	Donations		
Metal trail blocker for ATV's	Purchase		
Roby Dog poo station	Purchase		
Parking area	Volunteer labor		
	Wood chips (tons) Birdhouses & owl houses Map and trail markers Benches & picnic tables Metal trail blocker for ATV's Roby Dog poo station	Wood chips (tons) Network & advertise for donations or purchase Birdhouses & owl houses Map and trail markers Donations Benches & picnic tables Metal trail blocker for ATV's Roby Dog poo station Network & advertise for donations or kits from clubs Donations Purchase	Wood chips (tons) Network & advertise for donations or purchase Birdhouses & owl houses Map and trail markers Benches & picnic tables Metal trail blocker for ATV's Roby Dog poo station Network & advertise for donations or kits from clubs Donations Donations Purchase

Thanks to Michael Henry Tree Service! Harrison Michigan - 989-339-4377 Support our sponsor!





SECRETARY'S REPORT - Cheryl Dziurkowski

• LOP will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on August 24, 2024 in the Rec. Hall from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. This event is a fundraiser to generate funds for a new swimming pool cover. Our current swimming pool cover will not last through another winter. Due to the unique shape of our pool, it requires a custom-made pool cover which is very expensive. We will be soliciting for a quotation for a new cover but expect it will be about \$8,000. I imagine it will take a few fundraising events. Please come, enjoy the festivities and be generous. The festivities will include a Spaghetti Dinner, 50/50, Gift Basket Raffles, and a surprise door prize. We could use gift basket donations, gifts to create a gift basket, or monetary donations. Please contact Cheryl (586) 212-0701 for more information.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Cindy LaFave

No report

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE'S REPORT – Executive Team

Finance Committee Update

- We are implementing an investment strategy:
 - Allocate available funds to high yield accounts
 - Allocate available funds to infrastructure improvements
- Developing a prioritized capital budget
- Part of the Association Annual Plan and Three Year Plan



COMMITTEE'S REPORTS

EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - Eric Williams

No report

ARCHITECTURAL'S REPORT – Clay Basler

- During the last couple of weeks, we approved the building of two new pole barns (one on Cedarhurst and one on Woodridge) and one carport on Tamarack Trail
- Side note: Clay has just been hired by Freeman Township to work with their planning commission. Feel free to reach out with any suggestions

ECOLOGY'S REPORT – Jon Thomas (Absent)

Lake Treatment Update

- Lake was treated in June and weed growth has declined
- Fertilizing your lawn can promote weed growth
 - > Stay 15' away from the lake
 - Use organic or phosphorous-free fertilizers if possible



- Unfortunately, due to a family emergency, Jon Thomas had to step down from the BOD, so we are looking to fill his BOD position.
- We met with the owner of Dairy Doo in Evart, MI to talk about dredging our lake. We understand that the prices for the chemicals we dump into our lake will continue to go up and we need to start now looking at alternate solutions. The owner of Dairy Doo has agreed to come to our next meeting on August 10, 2024 to explain some options to investigate and answer any questions we might have.

MAINTENANCE'S REPORT - David Lynch

- Our maintenance crew took care of all the downed trees from the storm and they are staying on top of keeping our common grounds presentable.
- In addition, the crew is staying on top of maintenance of all our equipment (oil changes, tire inflated, equipment cleaned, etc.)

MAINTENANCE'S REPORT - David Borle

- Thank you everyone for attending our meeting.
- This board should work one vote for one member. No one should have superiority over anyone else. I do not like that is how this board is working today and it needs to change.

NOMINATING/BALLOTING REPORT – Geri Shaw

No report

PERSONNEL'S REPORT - Teri Morrow-Sutton

 Thank you to our office and maintenance staff. Remember they are carrying out our BOD orders so if you have complaints contact a BOD member.

PUBLIC RELATIONS'S REPORT – Gerry Broski

Time, Talent or Treasure Resident Recognition

- Bill Moore for fixing the latrine door on Pontoon Island
- Norma Kagle, Sheila McElhaney, and Cindy Gardner for their great work on the landscaping
- Dave Wilamowski & Shamra Wiethorn for helping a neighbor with dock accommodations
- Bill Stanley for equipment loans

Resident Feedback

- A resident has volunteered to teach a CPR class
- A resident has volunteered to help us with technology implementation

Appreciate our staff: Cindi, Nancy, Kim, Ginger, Tanya, Al, George

Thank you to all who participated in our Logo Contest. We have very talented members in our association.



SPECIAL PROJECT'S REPORT - Teri Morrow-Sutton

Assessment Collection Effort

	Number
Total properties	820
Dues paid promptly	717
Dues not paid	103 / \$54k
Actively engaging	52
No response	27
Dues owed back to 2024 or greater	24 / \$23k

lopdues@gmail.com

- To date we have collected approx. \$10k in back dues.
- We are willing to work with anyone that needs special arrangements to pay for their dues.
- Thank you to all our association members that pay their dues on time.

AMENITIES REPORT – Rod Saunders

No report

FACILITIES REPORT – Vicki Brauner

No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

 As per last month's Ecology Director's report addressing Doc & Tom Lake security, the following measures have been taken:

Lake Security - Ramp Closure

- Board decision in response to increased trespassing
- Final straw several confrontations sheriff was called for member safety
- Trespassers are not paying for lake maintenance or fish
- Chains are in place until a better solution is developed
- Keys available
- What did we learn?
 - ▶ We have to protect what we have we reduced trespassers
 - Some negative comments, many positive comments
 - ▶ Poor communication due to multiple mailing lists
 - Some residents need access to these ramps
 - ▶ Disabled access at Pontoon Island
 - ▶ We need to better communicate the role of LOP Security
 - ► Voluntary volunteers needed
 - Security cannot enforce restrictions only warn
 - Cannot put personal safety at risk

Lake Security - Ramp Closure

- What's Next?
 - We will issue keys to the locks to residents who are in good standing
 - One per household
 - ▶ 1st key is free
 - ▶ Replacement key is \$25
 - Ramps will be locked Memorial Day though Labor Day
 - Investigating a permanent solution

ASSOCIATION TIME

Eric Williams reminded everyone that Association Time is for members only and that you must state your name, subdivision, and lot number. Please limit your time to three minutes.

Eric Williams - Lot 042 & 043 - Birchwood

Question – Do you want to keep Doc & Tom Lake private and limit the access to only LOP members and guests?

Association Members Response – Yes, but you must give us adequate timing and access.

Deb Emmons – Lot 234 & 235 – Tamarack Trails

Comments – I asked someone on the BOD to help me out when my father was visiting, who is a handicap veteran, to accommodate letting him have the opportunity to fish on our lake. I waited a week and did not hear from anyone and now my father left and I may never have this opportunity again.

Answer – Per Dave Lynch – Can this BOD please have a conversation with you after this meeting to further discuss the situation?

Answer - Per Deb Emmons - Yes

Nina Hardiewich - Lot 089 - Pinehurst Estates

Question - Can you duplicate on your own the boat ramp keys?

Answer – Per Eric Williams – No. The keys should not be duplicated. They are numbered and tracked and if duplicated will throw out our tracking system.

Question –Is there a clause in the contract that you are not sharing that key with anyone?

Answer – Per Eric Williams –Yes, there is a clause in the contract stating that you will not share they key

Monica Borle - Lot 080 - Pinehurst Estates

Question – Is the lost/damaged duplicate key charge annual or lifetime? **Answer – Per Eric Williams** – It is a lifetime charge but we should hopefully have a final solution soon

Connie Crawford - Lot 200-202 - Woodland Heights

Comment – There are locks with keys available where the keys cannot be duplicated

Answer - Per Eric Williams - ok... Thank you

Charles Kroesing - Lot 453-456 - Tamarack Trails

Question – How many LOP association members have a boat sticker? **Answer – Per Teri Morrow-Sutton** – We issued between 400 and 450 boat stickers to LOP association members.

Leonard Emmons – Lot 234 & 235 – Tamarack Trails

Question – What about using a farmer type gate at the boat ramps instead of dealing with the heavy chains. This could be a cheaper solution **Answer – Per Eric Williams** – That is a good idea that we can investigate but still might be a short-term solution. We really need a long-term solution

Terry Garland – Lot 023 – Pinehurst Estates

Comment – Please can we let the board finish their business so that all of us can have our three minutes during association time to ask our questions

Deb Van Dyke – Lot 406 & 407 – Birchwood

Comment – Thank you BOD members. You must appease 800 association members and you are not going to make everyone happy. I appreciate your efforts on this topic and want you to know that you have community support. I understand that this is a temporary solution and look forward to your permanent solution.

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Thank you

Motion was made by **Clay Basler**, and seconded by **Dave Lynch** to approve moving forward with our Temporary Boat Ramp Access solution with lock & keys on both Larch & Evergreen Boat Ramps. There is a Boat Access Key contract and tracking system implemented. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

• Due to recent storms impacting our computer systems, we had to make some emergency infrastructure upgrades. Depicted below were our goals and actions taken to resolve these issues:

Office Infrastructure Upgrade & Website

- ▶ Goals
 - Reduce equipment issues and failures
 - Improve communications to association members
 - Improve work environment for office staff
 - Automate processes and procedures
- Actions
 - ▶ Replacing PC's and equipment
 - Reviewing software requirements
 - ▶ Upgrading internet performance with Spectrum
- Website has been migrated to lakeofthepines.net

SUB-COMMITTEE'S REPORTS

WOMEN'S CLUB REPORT - Geri Shaw

 Women's Club Monthly Meeting scheduled every second Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm in the Rec. Hall

MEN'S CLUB REPORT - Al Bywater

• Men's Club Monthly Meeting scheduled every second Wednesday of each month at 5:00 pm in the Rec. Hall. A meal is served.

LOP CIRCLE OF FRIENDS – Dave Lynch

No report

VOLUNTEER SECURITY PATROL REPORT – Leo Stevens (Absent)

No report

ASSOCIATION TIME

Eric Williams reminded everyone that Association Time is for members only and that you must state your name, subdivision, and lot number. Please limit your time to three minutes.

Brian Bouwens - Lot 138 - Tamarack Trails

Comment/Question – TV is an outstanding idea. Why are we spending \$150k on the bridge? I thought we wanted to improve the lake and I do not see how the campground improves the lake. After said and done it will cost about \$200k to get the campground up and running and I wonder if there are better uses for that amount of money. Maybe there are other uses for that property.

Answer – Per Eric Williams – We saw the campground as a revenue source and an amenity for the association members to enjoy. We tried to go out for multiple quotes but were unsuccessful. We have been working on this project for a long time and the BOD decided to move forward.

Shelley McCombe – Lot 078 – Pinehurst Estates

Comment – Not having the campground open has affected our attendance at many of the events we have held so far this year.

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Yes, you are correct

Terry Garland – Lot 023 – Pinehurst Estates

Comment – I am part of the original team of volunteers that put in that original bridge. The campground has always been a money maker for LOP. We as a community can help by volunteering and/or host fundraisers to generate funds to offset the high costs.

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Thank you

Stephanie Yancer – Lot 390 – Birchwood

Comment/Question – I really like the idea of speaking with Dairy Doo. It is great "Outside of the Box" thinking. What is the purpose of the EGLE permit request and when was it submitted? I may be able to help with acquiring the permit we requested. I will speak with Eric after the meeting.

Answer – Per Rod Saunders – The EGLE environment permit request was submitted in January 2024.

Marcy Wyrick - Lot 034 & 035 - Woodland Heights

Comment – Has anyone done a walk-thru in the Pool Shower Room areas? The doors are rotting, the paint is falling off the ceiling, the screen doors are falling apart, floors are slippery and the pool walls paint is chipping off. It looks horrible for association members and their guests to see.

Answer – Per Eric Williams – That topic was just brought up at our BOD workshop and we are planning to schedule a meeting to do so. Thank you for your input.

Sheri Parke - Lot 006 - Tamarack Trails

Comment/Question – Jon Thomas' grandson had a horrible diving accident up at Houghton Lake. There is a "Go Fund Me" set-up. Can we do some type of fundraiser for them to offset some of their costs?

Answer – Per Geri Shaw – If we do this for Jon Thomas' family then we will have to do this for everyone and it could quickly get out of control.

Answer – Per Teri Morrow-Sutton – Anyone wanting to donate to Jon Thomas' family can make it directly to Shari Parke and the family would get the full amount instead of service charges being taken out by "Go Fund Me"

Pete Wedesky - Lot 086 & 087 - Tamarack Trails

Question – Is Lake of the Pines Drive considered a LOP common property? **Answer – Per Eric Williams** – Yes, it is

Comment – The air conditioning systems in Cabin 2 & 3 are terrible. The little wall units in those cabins are not adequate to do the job especially in 90-degree temperatures?

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Thank you, we will investigate it.

Comment – The beavers have been very active on the south end of the lake and there is a problem with the water level

Answer – Per Eric Williams – Thank you, we will investigate it.

Final Comment - Thank you for all that you do

Steve Andrews – Lot 280 – Woodland Heights

Comment – There is a small culvert over by Silver Lake that drains into our lake that is causing problems. I brought over an 18" culvert that is stored over in our storage area that could eliminate a lot of the problems. It has been quite a while and no one has done anything with it.

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Ok, we will investigate

Answer – Per Rick McCombe – The blockage is due to a beaver dam and we are not supposed to take it down

Comment – No volunteers are coming forward here at LOP because a previous BOD decided to run LOP like a business and everyone that did any work here had to be licensed and insured.

Question – Why aren't you working on the electrical now while waiting on the new bridge.

Answer – Per Eric Williams – We are in final discussions with the BOD and getting updated quotes.

Lisa Mahoney – Lot 111 – Pinehurst Estates

Comment – First summer here at LOP and we love it. I do not want to come here with a problem without offering some type of solution. We are on the north end of the canal and it is bad. We are happy to hear that you are investigating dredging the lake. I am wondering if there is something that we can do, maybe hang an aerator off the seawall.

Answer – Per Eric Williams – Yes, trying to set up paths of communications with EGLE and other experts so that we can get answers to our questions a lot quicker.

John Mitten - Lot 572-576 - Birchwood Heights

Comment/Question – There is a posted sign stating that we would tow your boat at your expense if you do not have the proper sticker. Is it legal? **Answer – Per Eric Williams –** I would think that we have a right to have their vehicle towed away because this is a private access lake

Question – What was the outcome when the sheriff was called regarding illegally being on LOP property

Answer – Per Eric Williams – The sheriff asked the people to leave the premises.

Marsha Wedesky - Lot 086 & 087 - Tamarack Trails

Question - Will the new logo be used on the signage?

Answer – Per Eric Williams – No, they will remain the same. The new logo will be used on the letterhead for all LOP documents as well as on the LOP business cards.

Comment – We want to put up a memorial tree or plant in memory of our neighbor Judy Spare and sent a message for the BOD to approve but haven't heard back from them

Answer – Per Geri Shaw – Prepare a proposal stating what type of tree or plant you are interested in and where you want to plant it and present that to the BOD for approval.

Sheri Parke - Lot 006 - Tamarack Trails

Question – What is happening with all the efforts of the Covenant Committee?

Answer - Per Eric Williams - The document is still at our attorney's office.

Connie Crawford - Lot 200-202 - Woodland Heights

Comment – Thank you to the BOD for looking into CD's and money-making opportunities for us

Comment – Collinsville Canvas might quote the new pool cover for us **Answer – Per Eric Williams –** Thank you for this suggestion. We will investigate

Question – Will the insurance company cover the office equipment damaged in the storm?

Answer – Per Eric Williams – Cindy LaFave is following up with our insurance company. We are looking into it.

Question – Where is the money coming from for the campground electrical upgrade?

Answer – Per Eric Williams – We did have some money set aside for campground upgrades. If there isn't enough money there then we will tap into unallocated funds.

Norma Kagle - Lot 073 - Pinehurst Estates

Comment/Question – We used to have volunteer days. That hasn't happened in about two years. Can we put together another volunteer group to tackle some of the projects around LOP?

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Yes

Ray Koweck Jr. - Lot 012 - Pinehurst Estates

Comment – On this new screen you mounted, I noticed that you are using HDMI cables to communicate. Is there a way that someone can broadcast from a tablet or PC when they are using this room? If so, who can I talk to? **Answer – Per Gerry Broski** – Yes and you can talk with Gerry for more information

Steve Andrews - Lot 280 - Woodland Heights

Comment/Question – The kayak launch needs to be cleaned. Since it takes so long to get a permit can we apply for an EGLE permit now?

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Ok, we will investigate

Brad Lange – Lot 213-215 – Birchwood Heights

Question – Can we make the boat ramps longer?

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Yes, we will investigate it

Kim Roy - Lot 236-237 - Birchwood Heights

Comment – We are checking for boat stickers on Pontoon Island to make sure that people are using their boat slips

Tony Zelinski - Lot 214-216 – Tamarack Trails

Comment/Question – We rented the Rec. Hall on Sunday August 25, 2024 for a benefit for my 5-year-old wrestler who was recently diagnosed with leukemia. His mom is our secretary but has not been able to work **Answer – Per Eric Williams** – Get us the info and we will post this information.

Al Bywater - Lot 559-561 - Birchwood Heights

Comment - Our boat ramps do need to be lengthen

Terry Garland – Lot 023 – Pinehurst Estates

Question – Can I please have (5) minutes of the BOD's time after this meeting?

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Yes

Brian Bouwens – Lot 138 – Tamarack Trails

Question – At the next BOD meeting can you list the costs of renting the Rec. Hall, the cabins, the campground, etc.

Answer - Per Eric Williams - Yes

Linda Merlo - Lot 122 & 123 - Birchwood Heights

Comment – I do not do "Go Fund Me" so I cannot contribute to Jon Thomas' **Answer** – **Per Geri Shaw** – If we do this for Jon Thomas' family then we will have to do this for everyone and it could quickly get out of control. **Answer** – **Per Teri Morrow-Sutton** – Anyone wanting to donate to Jon Thomas' family can make it directly to Shari Parke and the family would get the full amount instead of service charges being taken out by "Go Fund Me"

Closing

Motion was made by **Cheryl Dziurkowski**, second by **Dave Lynch** to adjourn the meeting @ 11:50am. Vote taken. **Motion was unanimously passed.**

These meeting minutes were approved at the August 10, 2024 Lake of the Pines Board Meeting

Respectively recorded and transcribed by:

Cheryl Dziurkowski, Secretary LOP Board of Director

Eric Williams, President

Lake of the Pines Board of Directors

Cheryl Dziurkowski, Secretary

Lake of the Pines Board of Directors