

ELDA General Membership Meeting – July 9th, 2022, 10am

Officers:

George Firmstone, President
Dave Stanton, Vice President
Pat Walker, Treasurer
Millie McCarthy, Corresponding Secretary
Kathy Emanuelson, Recording Secretary
*board members absent

Board Members:

Jack Cleary ('24)	Joe Palonis ('23)
Mike Connelly ('24)	Jim Sartori ('22)
Bob Howell ('23)	Ken Swan ('23)
Chris Mann ('22)	Paul Szwayka ('22)
Mike Matzko ('24)	Bob Keen, Past President

Call to Order & Introductions

President George Firmstone called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 10:02am. He asked everyone present to introduce themselves. (Attendance sign-in attached)

Recording Secretary's Report – Kathy Emanuelson presented two sets of minutes. The minutes of the April 24, 2022, board meeting were shared electronically with ELDA board members for their review prior to the meetings. A motion to approve them was requested from board members only, was made by Jack Cleary, seconded by Dave Stanton, with no corrections noted, and passed with no opposed.

The minutes of the August 14, 2021, General Membership Meeting were shared electronically with ELDA general membership for their review prior to the meeting. A motion to approve them was made by John Parker, seconded by Mike Matzko, with no corrections noted, and passed with no opposed.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Millie McCarthy reported she sent 150 invoices, with 148 paid in full; payment for 2 outstanding dues are pending. Lake patroller Joe Farrell requested that boat sticker colors have a more significant contrast from the previous year. Millie noted that the color delivered was not the one requested and that is also her goal.

Treasurer's Report – Pat Walker shared both the Balance Sheet dated 7/8/2022 and the Profit & Loss summary for 8/1/21 through 7/8/22. Pat noted that the Balance Sheet showed a comfortable balance. This year's P&L has a \$1000 increase for fish stocking, and a \$3000+ expense under maintenance for the purchase of a new motor for the ELDA patrol boat. Importantly, Pat shared with ELDA members that the county-wide tax reassessment process resulted in an initial increase of taxable value of the lake from \$220,000 to \$1.9 million. He immediately contacted the reassessment company and requested a review of that valuation. They told Pat, "This is a mistake", and that our valuation would be reviewed before final recommendations went to the County Tax Office. Yesterday (7/8/22) Pat received notification from Wayne County that Elk Lake's revised reassessment value was \$352,000. His recommendation was to happily accept that determination without any further inquiries. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Mike Matzko, seconded by Len Addison, and passed with no opposed. (Reports are attached)

Township Meeting Report – Ken Swan reported that in general township meetings have been quiet and dull. Little Keen Road from Stanton Drive to the Clinton Twp border has been paved. Ken advised members who use GFL Environmental (formerly known as County Waste) to check their banking records to be sure that they haven't been double, or triple billed. It has happened to Ken, and during public comment at the Township Meeting other residents noted billing issues. His checks were cashed but not posted to his account.

Patrol Report – Joe Farrell reported that the lake has generally been quiet. The weekend of July 4th was OK. He had a few reports of issues. He has had to ask a few paddlers in kayaks without stickers to leave. There hasn't been anyone unauthorized fishing.

Boating and Safety – Mike Matzko opened his comments requesting any reports of safety issues from members in attendance. Observations shared:

- A jet skier weaving around and through 3 kayakers. They were obviously acquainted with each other but the behavior was dangerous.
- Paddleboarders without PFDs. They need not wear them but must be on the board with the paddler, along with a whistle.
- 4 jet skis were cruising around the lake in a diamond formation, jumping each other's wake. Mike reminded us that if boating faster than wake speed, a boat must be a minimum of 100 feet from any other boat.

It was queried whether there is a way to immediately notify ELDA patrol when one observes reckless behaviors? It was advised that ELDA members could/should police ourselves. It's also important to inform and guide our guests about safety rules.

George said we could invite a PA Boating Safety official to an ELDA meeting to discuss fines for safety violation, but he prefers not to invite the PA Boat Commission intrusion. It's much better to patrol ourselves. Continuing, George suggested that, if you're uncomfortable approaching someone about a safety issue, share with them that if someone calls the Boat Commission they could be routinely on our lake, which is definitely something we do not want.

Another member in attendance addressed pontoon boats "sitting" in the skiing/tubing boat lane. For safety's sake, he requested those cruising slowly to stick closer to the shore line, and those floating to position themselves in the middle of the lake.

Mike's final safety reminder was to remember that the total capacity of a motor boat must include the tubers or skiers being towed. If the capacity is 6, and you're pulling 2 tubers, only 4 people can be on the boat. He suggested that all members take copies of the current safety, fishing, snakes, paddling and PFD booklets, and that he has them at his home if anyone wants to obtain them between meetings.

Fish Committee – Jim Sartori reported for Jack Mulka that there has been good variety, quality and quantity of fish caught this year. Plans were to stock walleye last fall, but the fish offered for stocking were sickly, so refused. Subsequently, Jack did some research and for this fall has requested walleye for fall stocking from Schultz's hatchery, a PA fish hatchery. We are on the list to receive walleye, presuming their fish harvest is abundant enough. Jack is looking for 6-7" walleye.

Jim invited anyone who's interested to attend the Fish Committee meeting that will take place sometime after the fishing tournament. There were no questions. In closing, Jim reported that after their annual fishing retreat to Elk Lake this spring, his son's group reported the 2nd best all-time fishing, over more than a decade.

Water Quality Report – Dave Stanton reported that 2021 had overall great reports. July had an eColi reading of 23 by the outlet, but that mainly reflected the rainy weather of the month. In August all levels were 1 or less, including phosphorus. The recommendation was to continue making residents aware of the importance to not use fertilizers and maintain septic systems. Also remember to clean boats before re-entering the lake. The value of our properties depends on the quality of our lake water. This year the algae, which is a normal plant in the lake, seems a little more significant than usual. Dave will ask Aquatic Environmental Consultants to assess the algae growth when they are next here.

Fracking Committee Report – Dave Stanton has no report, as there is no change in status.

Dam report – Dave reported for Fred Stanton the dam is in very good condition. He has no recommendations. One member noted that when standing on the bridge looking to the left of the dam, he has noticed water going around the wall. George thanked him and said that will be investigated. Also, a member noted that the bridge needs repairs and improvements. George will have someone look at it and report back at the August meeting.

Committee Appointments

- **Financial Records Review Committee** – Pat Walker reports both Vince Gatti and Randy Berini will review the financial records and present the annual review at the August meeting.
- **Nominating Committee** – John Parker as chair commented on the great meeting attendance! He reviewed current officers and thanked them for all agreeing to serve again. Of the three board members whose terms are up this year, Chris Mann and Paul Szwayka have agreed to continue; Jim Sartori is stepping down. The Nominating Committee nominates Mark Murray to fill this position. John then requested nominations from the floor: Paul Szwayka nominated Dennis Gregory. With this, John clarified the voting procedure for the ELDA's August meeting. There will be 4 names on the ballot for the 3 open board seats: the 2 renewing board members, Chris Mann and Paul Szwayka along with Mark Murray and Dennis Gregory. The 3 top vote getters will be elected. As an aside, John noted the new sign at Jakes reminding people that Elk Lake is a private lake and asking people to abide by the rules. He thanked whoever is responsible for the signage.

Summer Activities for 2022:

- General Membership Meeting – Saturday August 13th, 10AM
- George Stanton Annual Golf Tournament – Saturday July 16th, Memorial Links, tee off 8:30am. Dave & Fred Stanton and Len Addison.

NOTE: please sign up for the Golf Tourney with the link on the ELDA webpage, or call Holly Stanton, or sign up at the event.

- Annual Field Day – Saturday, July 30th, 1PM, Sarah Sierra (sarahmsierra@gmail.com), Theresa Dethlefsen
- Covered Dish – Saturday July 30th, 6PM, Laura Beard and Joanne Connelly
- Fishing Tournament – Sunday August 7th. Measurements at Howell cottage at 11AM, Bob Howell, Rob Howell, & Kristin Conover. Please sign up at covered dish. OR stop by the Howell cottage anytime to sign up. It is helpful to include first & last name, as well as age, of the participant when signing up.

Please remember Elk Lake is "No Wake" until 11am on Fishing Tourney Sunday.

George thanked everyone who contributes to the success of the activities!

Old Business

- Invasive weed issue – Lake Alden update: George reminded members that Lake Alden has had Hydrilla for 3-4 years. Dan Nebzydoski for Lake Alden offered a workshop at the Wayne County Park Street complex this past May that was very interesting and informative. Their lake was treated in 2019, 2020 and will be treated again this year and in 2023. The treatments were largely paid for with grant money. It is a grey pellet treatment that slowly releases the chemical that kills the hydrilla. Lake Alden reports that it is working OK. Treatments are a forever or at least a long-term prospect. George asked Dan how these treatments affect the lake? Dan reports that fishing seems to be the same quality. The lily pad growth was impacted but seemed to come back in the year treatment was skipped.

A member asked if they test their water, and what is the water like? Does the treatment affect people? George noted that Lake Alden paid \$20,000 per treatment for a much smaller lake than ours, They do have public access there.

George asks that all ELDA members be conscious of this issue. ALL motorboats, trailers, kayaks and paddleboards that are taken to a different lake must be thoroughly cleaned with hot soapy water and allowed to thoroughly dry before being placed back in Elk Lake. A car wash was suggested as a way to clean boats, as well as a thorough visual inspections. When cleaning boats (fishing, ski boat) remember to include the trailer, fishing equipment, motor and bilge compartment. George asks people who take their kayaks and paddleboards to be especially cautious.

Also, make sure your guests do NOT use their own watercrafts. Every boat on the lake must have an ELDA sticker. They are of course entitled to use yours.

Finally, George encourages members to let him know if you see anything that's unusual. The Wayne County Conservation District will sample it and evaluate. You can also "google" Hydrilla to learn more about it.

New Business

- o Summer newsletter – Please send stories to Laure Carlo at laurecarlo@yahoo.com.

George asked for any new business from the floor:

- Bob Howell turned over some old records to the Stantons for long-term storage.
- Randy Berini wondered if the status of no volleyball at Sandy Point would ever change. He noted the long memories of his family having fun playing volleyball, including a young person who went on to a significant volleyball career.

George replied that the property owner owns the water at Sandy Point. That land is being leased and the leasee does not want volleyball there. George is happy that members still have the privilege to enjoy the sandy shallows without restrictions. As private property, ELDA has no jurisdiction there.

- Ken Swan noted that Wednesday, July 13th was a Clinton Twp meeting at the Aldenville school and to look for minutes in the Forest City paper.

Finally, George commented that he was very happy for the good turnout at the meeting and encouraged everyone to return in August.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mike Matzko, seconded by Dave Stanton, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Emanuelson
Recording Secretary
7/16/2022

ELDA General Membership mtg 7-9-2022

Kathy Emanuelson
TACK CLECK
Mike Matz

Jim SARTORI
Cynthia Matzko

~~Ken Swan~~
Bill RYAN
George Firmstone
Patrick Walker

BOB FISLER
Judith Hadden

Gary & Michelle Vauhelet

Michael & Lorraine Connolly

Diane Ciaglia
Gowan Beard
Ann Walker

Margaret & Bill Adkins

Kelly & Vince Gattin

Paul & Theresa Dethlefsen

BOB DETHLEFSEN

LARRY COWYER

Chris Mann

Don Hagercy

ADRIAN STORSTAD

Jerry Theobald

Barb Lutat

John Murphy

Randy Benini

Bill Bernway

Ron & Karen Firmstone

Chris Greedan

Ken Addison

John Stanton

Paul Starn

Dan Humphreys

JOHN PARKER

Bob Bunting

Joe Farrell

Dennis Gregory

Jon Wilko

Steve Ryan

John Sankowski

Jim Clark

Jimmy & Paul Swayka

Cindy Kuzner

GARY FLOOD

Roberta Howell

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