

Friends of Sandy Lake Meeting May 22, 2022

Sandy Lake Drop in Centre, Sandy Lake, Manitoba

In Attendance: President: Betty Braun, Vice President: Doug Wotton and 23 members.

Regrets: Shelly Zawisiak Treasurer, Teresa Chapin Secretary has resigned.

Looking for a new secretary for Friends of Sandy Lake.

Minutes of September 1, 2019 meeting were read by the President:

Motion: Daryl Kines –Valerie Wyness

The Minutes of the Sept 1, 2019 meeting be adopted as read. **Carried.**

The Agenda:

Motion: Marlene VanMulligan – Lucy Mondro

The Agenda as read by the President be approved. **Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

Account Balances May 22, 2022 are:

General Account: \$6830.59

Playground Account: \$1495.83

Motion: Bill Gardham - Dennis Hodgson

That the Treasurer's Report be adopted as presented. **Carried**

RM of Harrison Park represented by Reeve Jason Potter and Councillor Ian Drul

The main pier was discussed and concerns were raised about winter storage, ice damage, and improper anchors. The pier is being damaged each year and it has washed up on shore again this year

RM recognized the issues and said dock was not installed this year because of weather and windy conditions. Any damages that have occurred to date are covered by warranty.

The RM felt that the dock should remain in the lake but it may be necessary to look at removing the dock from the water for the winter. The issue is there is not enough room for winter storage on the shore line.

Another option mentioned was to float the dock to a back bay that is more protected from the wind and there would be less damage caused by the ice.

The Reeve said they will discuss the issue with public works and come up with a solution.

Another issue discussed was dust control and paving of the streets. Dust control will be implemented this year. Suggested we do back lanes as well.

The Reeve said that the priority this year will be Parks and Recreation and protecting the lake. There has not been any increases in taxes to cover paving of the streets. Lake Road from the main pier to Harrison Bay is the only road being paved this year.

Ian Drul said that the cement pad on main street that used to be a roller rink had been donated to the municipality. They have not finalized a use for the site but are open for suggestions.

Speed limits, speed bumps, and speed signage were discussed for different streets. Council will investigate options

Cottage break-ins and security cameras were discussed. Seasonal cottages and security is an issue that is difficult to address.

Suggested that water plant be updated so it can accept credit cards

Ian Drul announced that the electrical service at the Beach Change Rooms has been updated

A policy is being developed to address short term rentals in the RM of Harrison Park

Committee Reports:

Western Days will be held the weekend after the August long weekend August 12, 2022.

Friends of Sandy Lake have committed to doing the Pancake Breakfast again this year

Playground has been completed and the last payment made to the supplier of the equipment

Water Quality Committee Report:

Aquatic Invasive Species

- Invasive Species Inspection Station is now operating. Funding has been secured for Watercraft Inspectors.

- In 2021, we inspected 1,500+ watercraft. 7 were found to be high risk and were sent to RMNP to be decontaminated.
- Jet Skis are an issue as the National Park will not decontaminate as they are not allowed in the National Park.
- Access gates to Sandy Lake are now locked and trailered watercraft are directed to launch at the Main Street Boat Launch.

Wetland Project

The project to construction a small wetland to biofilter the water draining into Sandy Lake from the Golf Course has not been started and the funder (Conservation Trust) has told us not to proceed.

Water Quality Project

The objective of the program is to reduce or eliminate blue-green algae blooms, improve lake water quality and prevent winter fish kills.

Phase I

- Initial water and sediment samples were taken and analysed in 2021 to establish a baseline to compare with samples taken when we begin running an aeration system.
- Four aeration lines were installed in deep water in August of 2021.
- The lines were operated for one month using a borrowed 7.5Hp compressor and the system was turned off because:
 - there was not a budget to pay for the operating costs and
 - we were not ready to deal with open water in the winter.
- Testing the water for Dissolved Oxygen (DO) began in January 2022 using a YSI Meter which was purchased with grant money from the Manitoba Fish & Wildlife Enhancement Fund. The testing indicated that it was not necessary to be concerned about a winter fish kill at Sandy Lake.
- In March, the RM of Harrison Parks approved \$7,000 as a line item in their annual budget to cover costs of electricity for the aeration pumps.

- In May 2022, Phase I of the Aeration System started operating.

Phase II

- We plan to install additional Aeration lines as follows:
 - 3 or 4 lines in the deep water north-east of the Aeration building
 - 1 or 2 lines going south of the aeration building along Lake Street (about 500' offshore) down to the Main Street beach area.
- Once the additional lines are installed, we will begin operating them.
- Water testing will be done throughout the open water season in 2022.

Winter Operation

During the winter, we plan to operate the 4 lines in deep water directly east of the Aeration Building. The following safety measures will be put in place:

- Signs will be posted at locations along the shoreline to warn of thin ice and open water
- The area around the open water will be marked with posts having reflectors. Some of these posts will be equipped with flashing amber lights and others will have smaller warning signs like those posted along the shoreline.

Oxygen levels will be monitored in the winter to verify the system works to prevent winter fish kills.

Creel Survey

The 2021 Creel Survey was funded with grant money from the Manitoba Fish & Wildlife Enhancement Fund.

Our final report on the 2021 survey will be published in June.

This survey was done to:

- gather information on the value of the Sandy Lake fishery to the community,
- estimate the fish stocks of the fishery,

- gather statistics on fish caught & effort of catch and
- serve as a management tool to protect and enhance the fishery.

We plan to continue the Creel Survey in 2022.

Membership Committee Report:

Working on a membership drive for the next meeting in July.

Yearly Fee will be \$20.

A suggestion to encourage memberships would be to hold block parties and encourage your neighbours to buy memberships.

Suggestion to do another membership drive and have a draw for donated prizes like the membership drive in 2019.

New Business:

A thank you note was received from The Water Quality Group for the \$1000 donation in 2021.

An account is set up at the Sunrise Credit Union in Sandy Lake to accept donations to the Ukraine.

Next meeting will be Sunday July 3, 2022 at the Drop in Centre, Sandy Lake.

Call for adjournment: Daryl Kines so moves.

