

Pleasant Lake Property Owners Association

P.O. Box 447 Manchester, MI. 48158 www.twp-freedom.org/plpoa- Newsletter-Summer 2015



Lake residents at July 14, 2015 meeting

Rumors began swirling this summer about possible DNR interest in purchasing the Pleasant Lake Inn property and installing a public boat launch. Long-time resident, Frank Lobbstael, submitted the following letter to the Freedom Township Board at its July 14th meeting (attended by 20+ concerned Pleasant Lake residents). Also attending was Representative Gretchen Driskell who had researched resident concerns and was assured the DNR is not currently pursuing Pleasant Lake for a public boat launch at this time. Residents remain concerned, however, as the structure is to be demolished by early September and will be sold to “someone.” Example: A southwest MI lake property went into bank receivership and was then sold to the DNR setting the stage for a public boat launch. PLPOA and CROW have passed resolutions recommending Pleasant Lake remain a private lake. The Freedom Township Board will review the possibility of such a resolution, as well as possible updates to the zoning ordinance to enhance protection of Pleasant Lake from public boat launches, and will report back at its August 11th meeting.

July 8, 2015 letter from Frank Lobbstael to the Freedom Township Board of Trustees----

Recently, there have been rumors going around about the Michigan DNR targeting Pleasant Lake for a public access site. These “rumors” have been heard from several different people and I was asked about it by a friend in Ann Arbor. It’s no secret the DNR does have an active public launch expansion program. I have seen the list and Pleasant Lake is on it with a priority rating of “high”.

Gretchen Driskell, our state representative has assured us that the DNR currently has no plans for installing a public boat launch on Pleasant Lake at this time (that would be nice to have in writing). I suppose we should no longer concern ourselves with the notion that the DNR is targeting Pleasant Lake for a launch site. After all, if a politician said it, it must be true...right? I think that in a case like ours, where it is so important, it would be wise to err on the side of caution and implement some kind of zoning restrictions that may make it more difficult in the future for any public launch attempts.

For those who are not aware, Pleasant Lake is a private lake. What does that mean? It means there is no navigable ingress or egress, it’s not connected to any other lake, and all the property abutting the lake is privately owned. That’s the definition by the state of Michigan of a private lake. It has always been a private lake. The launch at the bar was illegal with no valid marina permit (per DNR in 2001).

Now, how does a lake become public? By the DNR owning a piece of property on the lake. At that time, the lake becomes public, and once it becomes public, so it will be forever.

What would a public boat launch on Pleasant Lake mean to the riparian residents? Number one, the lake would automatically

become a public lake. That alone will lower our property values considerably. Secondly, the lake will suffer irreversible damage from invasive species like zebra mussels, starry stone wart, and who knows what else down the road. Literally every public lake in SE Michigan has zebra mussels. Another impact with the DNR's planned addition of 13 boats the lake would become overcrowded and dangerous, especially on weekends and holidays. Even though the lake's surface area is 202 acres, only about half of that is deep enough and weedless enough for recreational boating.

The noise level will increase, and more trash will be left in the lake. Trust me, I live on the east end of the lake and pick up trash constantly that the prevailing west wind carries into the swamp. I have gotten everything from row boats and canoes, to fireworks, balloons, barrels, buckets, toys.....you name it

I have not talked to one person who lives on the lake that is not terrified at the thought of a public launch.....well maybe one. Gene Derossett did say "anything but a bar" but then he also said he would not like to see a boat launch either. And most of the Pleasant Lake riparians stay right here, they generally don't visit other lakes, the public lakes. And therefore, many of them have no idea how good we have it here. Just for comparison, this past 4th of July, typically one of the busiest boating days of the year, I went out here on Pleasant Lake to monitor the activity. They were having the annual boat parade at 2:00 and there were 7 boats. Add to that, 3 or 4 other boats not in the parade and there were about 10 boats total. That was one of the busiest days I have ever seen on our lake. Fast forward to 4:00 and I am at Whitmore Lake. Not in the water but at a friend's deck party. I was shocked and amazed at the number of boats on the lake. There were boats as far as the eye could see. I didn't even attempt to count them for it was impossible.

I know some members of this board have been approached by a few individuals that have expressed an interest in obtaining lake access. I understand that, but threatening our natural resource to appease a few individuals does not seem logical to me. OK, so this is getting rather lengthy, thank you for your patience, I'll get to the point.

The boat launches is in C1 zoning, which is what the bar property is in. These are the things I want to know from this board:

1. Am I reading the zoning ordinance correctly? Section 4 prohibits a boat launch on commercial property?
2. Would the board consider changing the zoning at the bar to accommodate a boat launch in the future?
3. Can the DNR override our zoning ordinance and put a launch in anywhere it acquires property?
4. Key Holing ordinance. I cannot seem to find it in the zoning. Do we have one and where is it located?
5. Will this board consider passing a resolution permanently banning public boat launches on Pleasant Lake?

How you can help. If you feel strongly about keeping Pleasant Lake a private lake (no public boat launches), please consider **voicing your opinion to one or more of the people below:**

- Dale Weidmayer, Freedom Township Supervisor, 10360 Pleasant Lake Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103; dsweidmayer@yahoo.com, 734-429-7101
- Valisa Bristle, Freedom Township Clerk, 8795 Pleasant Lake Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103; vlbristle@yahoo.com, 734-222-6399
- Larry Lindemann, Chair, Freedom Township Planning Commission (Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance issues), 13500 Pleasant Lake Road, Manchester, MI 48158, LLinde0922@aol.com 734-428-9687
- State Representative Gretchen Driskell, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514; gretchendriskell@house.mi.gov 517-373-0828

Please consider attending the next Freedom Township Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday August 4, 2015, 7:30PM at the Freedom Township Hall to voice your concerns about keeping our R-3 Lake District and other zoning rules up to date to protect the lake!

Also, please attend the Freedom Township Board meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, 8PM, at the Freedom Township Hall. A Board update on the no boat launch resolution and Inn clean up situation is expected, as well as a briefing from Jeff Krchmarik, Environment Program Supervisor, Washtenaw County on our Pleasant Lake Special Assessment Program for 2015.

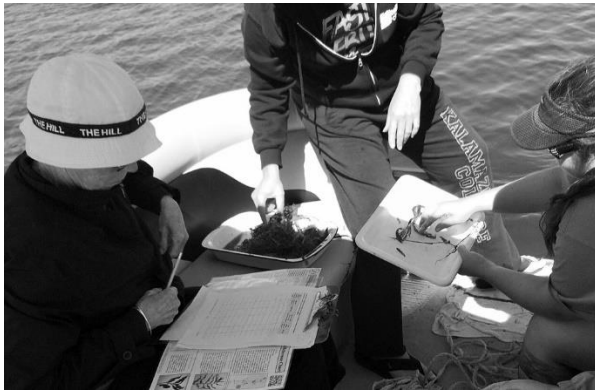
Lastly, the very best thing we residents could do is help find a new buyer for the Pleasant Lake Inn property!

PLPOA Activities and Accomplishments in 2014/15

-PLPOA representative attended Michigan Lake and Stream Associations (ML&SA) conference May1-2, 2015 and gave a briefing about Pleasant Lake weed management. An article on Pleasant Lake was on the cover and the lead story for the Spring issue of The Riparian Magazine publication of ML&SA.

-Annual *LakeScan* evaluation-**Dr. Doug Pullman, Aquest CEO commented: "The Pleasant Lake Management Team did an inspection in early June 2015 and found the invasive weeds to be quite heavy in Pleasant Lake. So we tailored the treatment to suppress not only invasive weeds but maintain the stability of the ecosystem. My later LakeScan™ Section 8 plant community survey confirmed this goal was achieved with good results. Pleasant Lake is one of the few in your region without Zebra Muscles and Starry Stonewort and one of our management program objectives is to try and keep it that way"**

-Special Assessment District-Washtenaw County Environmental Programs Office is coordinating this ongoing 5 year program. Aquest, Inc. performs annual LakeScan assessments and then informs Aquatic Services, Inc. of specific treatment recommendations. A pretreatment survey was conducted on June 4, 2015 and the application on June 10, 2015. Residents were notified in advance by mail, PLPOA put up signs several days in advance, and yellow signs were distributed on the day of the treatment. Follow up surveys showed the treatment was effective in reducing invasive plants. All treatments are implemented as a part of a planned MI DEQ-approved program. This process is well tested as more than 2,200 lakes and ponds in MI successfully use annual herbicides to control nuisance weeds.



PLPOA held an Aquatic Plant Training & Mapping training session July 14, 2015 on Pleasant Lake, run by Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP).

-We perform weekly (May-Sept) water clarity testing, plus regular chlorophyll, phosphorus, and O2 measurements in Pleasant Lake, conduct Aquatic Plant mapping, and submit these results to the CLMP program which includes six Michigan lake organizations and the DEQ.

-Pleasant Lake shoreline analysis by a Michigan State/DEQ/Huron River Watershed Management team was conducted in September 2014 to create a new shoreline analysis tool.

-PLPOA maintains and puts out the yellow buoys that show boaters where the shallow areas and rocks are in Pleasant Lake during the boating season.

-Annual boat parade was held July 4, 2015. Thank you to Catherine Roberts, Doris Taddonio, John and Anne Taddonio, Kathy Moore and Mary Sue Moore for their efforts and prizes!

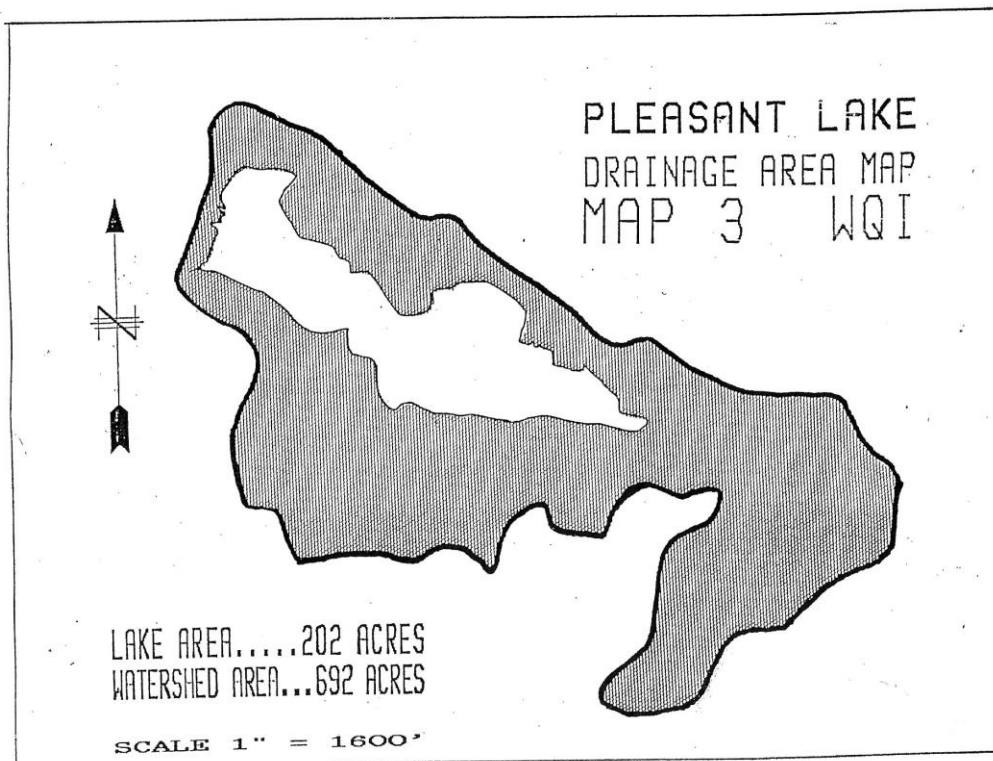
PLPOA Looks Forward

-PLPOA wants and needs your involvement and ideas to maintain the health and quality of Pleasant Lake. We face new challenges in 2015. This includes the possible threat of a state boat launch, weather, environmental changes, the arrival of new invasive species brought in by unclean boats and other watercraft, birds, runoff and other challenges.

-A new potential risk is the proposed installation of the ET Rover 42-inch pipeline to move natural gas and petroleum products at high pressure from Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio to Canada via Freedom Township as well as a second Enron 16-inch pipeline. The plan is for these pipelines to run near the lake, underground parallel to Reno Rd.

PLPOA PURPOSE STATEMENT

To actively engage issues which concern the environment of Pleasant Lake, including but not limited to: conserving and protecting the lake and its watershed; promoting water quality that is safe for recreation and conducive to the renewal of fish and wildlife resources; promoting the education of property owners, watershed residents, and other users of Pleasant Lake about water quality and safety; promoting fellowship and understanding among property owners so that a spirit of neighborliness and cooperation will exist; and, promoting an ongoing Lake Quality Assessment and Maintenance Plan that maintains environmental quality and provides for excellent recreational activities, including boating, sailing, swimming, and fishing.



PLPOA-President, Beth Heuser-734-428-8040: VP-Lon Nordeen, 734-428-0530: Secretary-John Taddonio- 480-748-6854: Treasurer-Catherine Roberts-734-205-7333: Jan Davis-734-428-3823: Dr, Jeffrey Messman-734 428-0709: Stan Parker, 734-428-0208: Jeff Spencer 734-545-2909