

DRAFT

Minutes of annual meeting of Lake Charlevoix Association
August 15, 2008
The Depot Museum, Charlevoix

Board members present: Williamson (presiding), Nowak, Dow, Friendly, Costa, Mishler
Absent: Witting
Approximately 30 members and guests

Williamson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and thanked the Charlevoix Historical Society for allowing LCA to use the Depot Museum.

The minutes of the 2007 meeting were approved as presented.

Dow presented the treasurer's report for the 2007 fiscal year, showing total income of \$20,149 and expenses of \$18,175.95. He also reported that for the 2008 year to date, expenses, primarily for printing and mailing of two newsletters, had exceeded income by roughly \$2,000. He reported the association had total cash and CD assets of \$18,977.67. The report was accepted unanimously.

Williamson offered a review of LCA activities since the last annual meeting.

He noted that the addition of four new board members -- Costa, Dow, Mishler and Witting -- had enabled a substantial increase in association actions. He cited a two-day board retreat in September that led to revision of the goal and mission statement and an action-oriented set of steps that focused on membership development. He said the board's goal was to have 90 percent of riparian as members within three years. The two newsletters and one additional mailing to the 1,600 identified property owners have produced a growth in membership to more than 430. He noted that the mailings were expensive; in response to a suggestion from the floor, he noted that LCA would be using emailings in the future as more members provide their email addresses. He said the website -- www.lca-mi.org or www.lakecharlevoixassociation.org -- was evolving and that it had not been promoted because it did not yet have the content that would be most useful.

Expanding on this, Friendly reported that a \$5,000 grant from the Charlevoix Community Foundation (CCF) was being used to gather information for the website and that much of the township information such as planning and zoning ordinances and permit forms was already in hand for posting. He said that a website designer would be engaged to assist in a reworking of the site to match the information needs the board had identified.

Williamson noted that LCA, in partnership with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (WC), had successfully conducted its annual Experience Lake Charlevoix sessions for area sixth-grade science classes in May and had launched a new, adult-oriented program called Discover Lake Charlevoix, also in partnership with the WC and under the terms of a grant from the CCF.

Expanding on this, Mishler said the Discover events Aug. 7 and 14 in Charlevoix and Boyne City respectively had each drawn about 60 participants who were given water monitoring and other instruction in boats provided by LCA members. He noted that the participants also visited the booths set up on shore by LCA, the WC, the Department of

Natural Resources, WATCH and other organizations.

Williamson reported on focus group sessions conducted in July in East Jordan, Evenline Township and Bay Township to elicit ideas on ways LCA can be useful and relevant to lake residents. He said some of the themes that emerged were endorsement of an education role for LCA, frustration with local officials and, from government officials, frustration with not having adequate resources for enforcement of codes. One idea he said would be to have LCA post a list of landscape contractors who do a particularly good job in observing environmental priorities.

One member, Todd Anson, noted his frustration in watching a developer abusing South Arm properties near the Loeb (Castle) Farm to build on wetlands and expand work beyond the limits of his building permits. He said that repeated complaints to local officials did not lead to stopping the violations nor repairing of damaged property. Anson suggested that the present downturn in the economy and the collapse of the housing industry may provide a window of opportunity for persuading local officials to enact and enforce regulations that permit some development within sustainable limits. Another member said, however, that private property should be subject to abuse regulation but not to use regulation.

Steve Hansen reported on the annual boat census conducted Aug. 2. He said that overall the number of boats counted, 4,722, remained at about the same as last year's 4,767. The number of power boats more than 26 feet long was 584, compared to 619 a year earlier, while power boats less than 26 feet rose to 1,959, from 1,865 a year ago. Sailboats rose also, from 597 to 663. He said that the lake's capacity for boats was not being overstressed with few incidents of gasoline or oil pollution. A discussion of what permits are needed for long-term mooring of seasonal vessels was inconclusive.

Dow presented five proposed changes to the association's bylaws. The first eliminates a requirement that a director appoint an alternate to vote at board sessions the director cannot attend. The second eliminates the provision that the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer be Directors-at-Large. The third eliminated a provision allowing any LCA member to attend any Board meeting. The fourth changes the requirement for a majority vote of the membership at the annual meeting to set the annual dues. The fifth replaces the requirement for an annual audit of the treasurer's report to require a review by the Board instead. The third amendment provoked some questioning about the process a member would need to follow in order to attend a board meeting. Williamson said the intent of the change was not to discourage attendance but to prevent disruption of the meetings. The changes were adopted. (A copy is appended.)

With the terms of Williamson and Nowak expiring, there were four vacancies on the board. Williamson and Nowak agreed to stand for re-election and the nominating committee proposed the election of members Brian Chamberlain and Tom Snow. All four were elected unanimously.

There was no old business.

Under new one member urged members to attend local planning and zoning meetings as well as township meetings. He said that to affect change in enforcement and in the adoption of more stringent controls on development, township officials had to see that LCA was serious about understanding the local issues.

A suggestion was made that LCA try to arrange an annual meeting with township and city officials to share joint concerns.

The annual meeting was adjourned at 11:40. It was followed by a presentation on the history of Lake Charlevoix by David L. Miles, co-director of the Lake Charlevoix Society.

In a brief board meeting following Miles' presentation, the board re-elected Williamson as president, selected Mishler as first vice president, Costa as second vice president, Dow as treasurer and Friendly as secretary. Williamson accepted a one-year term on the board, while Nowak, Chamberlain and Snow were named to three-year terms.

The board agreed to try to meet again before the end of the month and to conduct a planning retreat in September.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Friendly, Secretary