Van Vliet Views

Spring Supplement, 2005

Official Annual Meeting Notice

The Van Vliet Lake Association 2005 Annual Meeting will be:

Saturday, July 2
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Presque Isle Community Center

This is a great opportunity to meet your lake neighbors, provide your input on lake issues, and vote for board members. The meeting **WILL BE ADJOURNED BY 4:00 p.m. .**

The agenda is:

- rezoning issue
- status of Lake Management Plan
- Van Vliet Hemlock preservation effort
- elections to board positions

Nancy Frank is up for re election for treasurer, **Jim Sprester** for secretary, **Jeff Burke,** at-large, and **Dick Novak,** at-large.

Read the next article to get some insights into voting and membership questions.

MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING CLARIFICATION

BY TOM OLSON

Several questions have been asked about membership in the Van Vliet Lake Association and voting privileges. These are contained in the Bylaws which were amended at the Annual Meeting in 2003. They may be found at http://www.vanvlietlake.com/documents/Revised-By-laws.pdf.

Who is eligible to join? According to article III, Section 1.:

Section 1- ELIGIBILITY: Membership in the Association shall be open to any individual, family, business, or organization, that (a) subscribes to the purposes of the Association and (b) owns or leases property within one mile of Van Vliet Lake or is resident within one mile of Van Vliet Lake for at least one month of every year.

How much are dues? $10 per individual member. Any individual who fits the eligibility may pay $10 and become a member.

Membership and Voting, cont.

Who may vote? An "individual member" may vote with one vote on any item. A member must be present at a meeting to vote. Absentee and proxy votes are not allowed by the Bylaws.

Implication: More than one individual per property may join and vote if they are either owners (or lessees) or resident for at least one month per year, an individual, and pay dues. Or said another way, if a husband and wife both wish to vote, they must both pay dues.

The Bylaws were revised in 2003 in this way to encourage memberships and attendance at meetings so that the discussions surrounding issues could be heard and voted upon by the greatest number of interested and impacted individuals.

A Septic System Review

by Jeff Burke

One part of the Van Vliet Lake Association's Lake Planning Grant attempts to document and review lakeshore sanitary systems and their impact on the lake's health. While it is well established that nutrient loading, in particular phosphorus, is a strong determinant for excessive fertility, the greatest proportion of this loading comes from nature in the form of runoff from landmasses. Nonetheless, a percentage can also come from runoff leaching from septic fields, malfunctioning septic tanks, and at its worst, from septics running directly into the lake. What a lake study would like to insure is increased sanitary system awareness from property owners and an acceptance of responsibility for their maintenance. Any property owner who has a septic system that was installed after July 1, 1980 is or can very easily get on the "maintenance program" which is mandated by the State and administered by the County. There is a "gray area" for certain systems installed between 1980 and 1985. This program simply notifies the owner every three years to have their tank pumped and/or inspected. The person pumping the tank then endorses the card received by the owner and the card is returned to the County indicating compliance. Vilas County has one of the highest compliance rates for tank maintenance of any county in the State.

For pre-1980 tanks and systems the issue is more complex. Contrary to what some owners would like to believe, there is no "grand fathering" or alternative standards no matter the age of the system. The tank and field must comply with current standards. When an existing property is now sold there is a septic system review for pre-1980 systems, which requires a soil boring to determine tank and field conditions and adequacy. This assumes the system hasn't already been checked and reviewed through the efforts of the previous owner. Current charges for soil boring range from $300.00 to $500.00 and include a final report documenting the soil strata and the system compliance or failure. If the system passes, the owner is placed on the maintenance program. If the system fails, the State mandates installation of a new septic system enforced by the County. A normal failure (without immediate health concerns) allows the

continued on the next page

Septic Systems, cont.

owner a one year period to achieve compliance. Determination of direct runoff (immediate health concern) to waterways or adjacent properties may reduce that time period to as little as 60 days. This is a serious consideration for a property owner since doing the responsible thing could lead to some substantial expenses.

According to our preliminary study of septic records at the Vilas County Court House, less than half of Van Vliet properties are in the maintenance system. Maintaining a responsible stewardship for your lake property involves all aspects of your land use. This includes your sanitary system. If you are reluctant to have your system tested, the minimum you should consider is to have your tank pumped as recommended, generally every three years based on occupancy and amount of time spent on the premises. For further information on septic system requirements and/or data on your particular system, call Vilas County Zoning at 715 479-3620 or visit with Zoning Agent Jim Janet on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. at the Presque Isle Community Center. Owners interested in soil boring at a possible reduced group rate should contact Jeff Burke, 715 686-2557. If a substantial number of owners indicate an interest, the matter will be pursued further.

Jim Sprester, lake history chairman, is in great need of photos, anecdotes, clippings, articles, books, stories, etc. that will help him compile a history of VV Lake. 262 367-7321, 715 686-2613.

Summer Celebration Being Planned for Labor Day Weekend

The first ever "simply social" event for the Van Vliet Lake Association, its members and friends will take place at Presque Isle Wilderness Park on Saturday, September 3. No business, voting or issue discussion will take place.....just good food, fun and informal conversation.

This event is in the planning stages, so watch for details in the upcoming summer issue of this newsletter. Save the date and plan to attend!!

Rezoning Issue

by Jeff Burke

Beginning in February of this year, the Van Vliet Lake Association started the process of contacting Lake property owners for their votes on agreement with or opposition to the rezoning effort for their properties. To date, (late May), of the 76 known property owners, 63 have responded. 57 owners favor the change and 9 oppose it including one property that is not included in the proposal. It's difficult to know what the remaining 13 owners want but they have chosen not to return documents that were mailed to them through the US mail registered and certified. This is an overwhelming mandate! Property owners who have not weighed in on this issue need to know that this organization is not in favor of and will rigorously oppose any suggestion at spot zoning for non-voters or opponents. Papers

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE

ZONING, CONT.

are being prepared for presentation to the Presque Isle Town Zoning Committee, the next step in the process. Property owners/voters who would like to have another opportunity to speak to this issue may do so at the annual meeting that will occur prior to the presentation to the Zoning Committee.

Van Vliet Lake Association Annual Membership- 2005

Name_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Lake Address (if different)_____

Phone number(home)_____(lake)_____

Email Address_____

Your membership is tax deductible. Your check is your receipt.

Mail to: Nancy Frank, Treasurer
4918 Fond du Lac Trail
Madison , WI 53705

As this goes to print, the following people have paid their dues and mailed in their forms: Steve & Nancy Frank, Jeff &Jorja Burke, Don & Jean Trimble, Tom & Barb Olson, Paul & Kathy Nasenbeny, Robert Stewart, Chris & Stacy Redel, Carl Lekan, George & Pat Kupfer, Bernard&Patricia Clifford, Don&Jan Funk, LaVergne&Edward Brodsky, Dick&Karen Harris, Jim&Kathy Sprester, Paul&Sharon Specht, Don&Jeneane Blom, Dick&Carol Novak, Joseph&Noreen Janda, Fred&Sarah Hansen, Matt&Linda Rottman, Matt&Lorraine Pachi, Mike Czarny&Ronie Jacobsen, Lloyd&Susan Freckmann, Bill&Diane Schroeder, Jill Wilm, Lin Ahlstedt.

REMEMBER, YOU MAY PAY YOUR DUES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!!