

**PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES  
November5th, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by President Roger Cody. .

**PRESENT:** : Eric Beeman, Judy Blackmore, Roger Cody, Frank and Linda English, Jane and Paul Mueller, Mary Reed, Jim Simons, Barb Wolverton , Bev Baurer, George and Margaret PUNCHES, Dave Combs, Jeff , Cindy and Parker Sternberger, Jon and Charlotte Straight.

**MINUTES:** Copies of the October minutes were distributed and sent out by email prior to the meeting. Judy Blackmore moved to approve, Jim Simons seconded and minutes were approved.

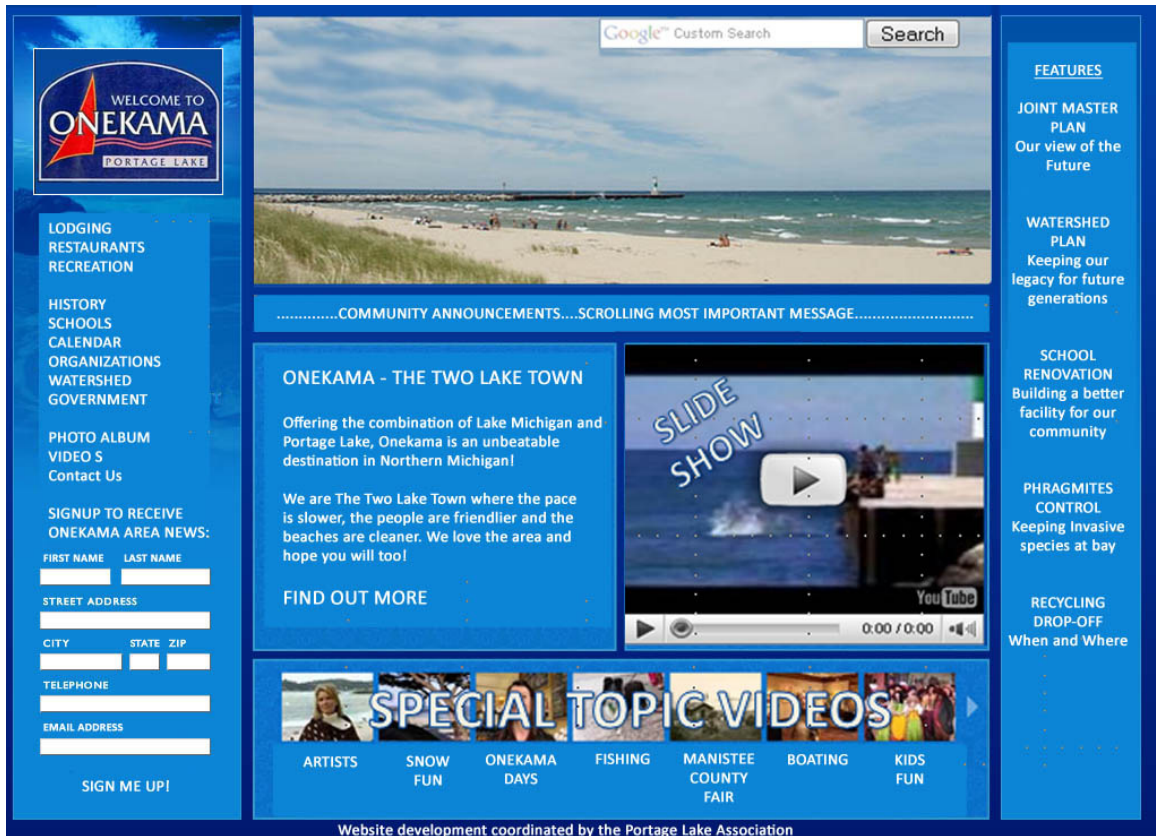
**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The financial report was distributed by Treasurer Barb Wolverton. Questions were answered. The \$1200+ donation was for the blinds at the Farr Center. .Roger requested a report that compares this year's budget to our current status for the next board meeting. Jim moved the Treasurer's report be approved, George seconded, and report was approved.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Roger stated the ballots will go out with the December President's newsletter. Paul Mueller has requested that his name be removed from the ballot, but assured Roger that he will retain all his current responsibilities. We will have 10 board members plus the past president. Roger read a letter from Ruth Hudson, Village Clerk thanking us for the new Onekama sign. The some of the approvals have been obtained for the second sign south of the village. We agreed to pay for Manistee Chamber of Commerce membership. The request for a donation to the Manistee Senior graduation bash was tabled until we check on what Onekama does.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Sign:** The sign is complete. Roger asked board members to gather at the sign for pictures. We are still looking into installing solar lighting. There have been many positive comments on the sign.

**Web site:** Eric Beeman presented the mock up of the new home page and asked for comments. Some comments were: **This new home page is really great.** Suggestions: PLA more prominent, list of churches, unlimited growth potential, slide show great. Eric requested that we send him more pictures. Frank made a motion and George seconded to accept this new format and that Eric continue on his current direction.



**Invasive species:** Report was given by Mary Reed:

1. AVAS survey of the lake was completed on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 by Professional Lake Management. PLA financed this survey.
2. This report was presented to the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Executive Board on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008.
3. PLWF Executive board formed a sub-committee to review the report and make recommendations. Herb Lenon, Dan Behring, Jim Simons and Mary Reed were appointed to the committee
4. Committee has met twice and determined that the next step is to present an educational program to a joint meeting of the village and township boards.
5. Committee will report back to the PLWF on December 10<sup>th</sup>.
6. Goal is to get the support, permits, and financing done so the lake can be treated by the fall of 2009.
7. The Harbor Committee has already written a letter of support to the PLWF board.
8. Jr Clio presented a check for \$100 to help with this project.

**October Fest:** Jeff Sternberger reported on the October Fest. It was a great success. The weather was perfect...sunny, warm and no wind. The town was full of people and there were 30 vendors. The money spent for the kids activities was well spent and we will not plan to drop anything for next year. We will have to re-evaluate the pumpkin and scarecrow contest. Ribbons or some other prize might help to get the children involved.

**Scarecrows/cornstalks throughout the town:** Special thank you to Marilyn Acker and her committee for all the work they did on the scarecrows and to Jeff for all the cornstalks. Roger will send a special thank you to Marilyn Acker and her committee.

**Chili Cook Off and Celebration of lights:** Jeff and Judy reported that the date is November 22. Bazaar has 10-13 people signed up with more expected. Seniors will do Holiday wreaths, Church of the Brethren cookies, Congregational Church, baked goods, There will be a traveling trophy/plaque for the commercial division of the chili cook-off. Jeff has the forms to enter your chili – expect to bring 2-3 gallons. He will decide classifications for prizes in commercial and personal entries. Beth McCarthy will do reading of the names. Eric will scan the donation envelop for the web site. Frank will set up his village in the Farr Center. Room will be full. Judy has ordered 24 celebration of lights sweatshirts in varying sizes that will be sold at the event for \$15 each. Roger and Nancy Cody would like to plant 2 trees near the tree of lights in memory of their parents. Also, the JR Clio had requested/offered to plant 2 trees in that area. Frank will get the lights on the tree and look into the power source for that many trees. Judy suggested corn stalks be taken down now. Jeff volunteered to remove them after Thanksgiving.

**Street decorations:** Roger and Judy have “the map”. They have already started to hang the decorations.

**Board Retreat:** George reported that as the new President elect he would like to hold a retreat on December 8<sup>th</sup> from 8-12 at the Covenant Church Camp. Dan Behring will be the facilitator. This will be a strategy session.... This may become an annual event. Frank moved and Jim seconded that the board approve up to \$150 for this meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Letterhead logo:** Roger followed up on George’s suggestion and distributed a sample of a new letterhead that would use the new sign as the logo. He will look into the costs and best method of having these printed in color and report back at the December meeting.

**Fund Raiser:** Lee LaFleur has agreed to chair the 2009 PLA Fundraiser. It will be held at the Three Fires Convention Center.

**501C3** This needs to be explored again. If the PLA was a 501C3 organization it would be of benefit for the fundraiser. Businesses can take their donation as an advertising expense, but others cannot take a tax deduction. Cost of getting a 501C3 is around \$5,000 plus there is a lot of paperwork involved. Another option is to set up an account thru the Manistee Foundation so people could take the tax deduction. Roger will discuss with Tim Ervin.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45**

Submitted by

Mary Reed  
Secretary