

A.C.T. – N.O.W.
Advisory Community Team – Neighbors On Watch
COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2015

Community Meeting was called to order by Al Schultz at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by 73 members and guests in attendance.

MINUTES

- Ginny Trombley made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the October 20, 2014 Community Meeting as published. Seconded by Brian Hill. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- N/A (Treasurer Bob Barber absent)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Scrap Metal Project is back open for the year and the trailer is out in the marked area behind the police department to deposit your scrap metal. This is a fund-raiser for ACT NOW and 100% of proceeds go back to community projects and programs.
- May 4th is Awards Night at Roscommon High School and ACT NOW will be presenting two \$500 scholarships at the program.
- May 6th is Spring Road Clean-up starts at 4:00 p.m. at the police department. Pizza and pop will be served afterwards. Sign-up sheet on table if you can help out.
- 2015 Law Enforcement Torch Run Pre-Sale Shirts are available for \$10 each, sample on display.

GAP REPORT

- N/A

SPEAKER/PROGRAM

- Chief Hill introduced Ken Dennings who introduced guest speakers from SICON who presented their scientific/ecologically safe approach to reducing the Swimmer's Itch problem in Higgins Lake. Their program would run from 4/15/15 – 7/31/15 with a biology lab and research boat and is based on

trapping the Common Merganser duck nests and eggs and relocating them to either Lake Huron or Lake Michigan and clipping their wings. (These lakes do not house the snail species that cause Swimmer's Itch.) They would also study and test the large populations of the two species of snails that cause the disease and remove as many as they can. Swimmer's Itch can never be eradicated; however it can be greatly reduced by this 3-year program.

- Supervisor Frank Homola from the local Swimmer's Itch Task Force introduced guest speakers from the DNR Fish & Wildlife Services who explained their harassment and lethal take method via a Gerrish Twp. permit which will be done by 5/22/15. This process involves harassing the migrant Common Mergansers to keep them moving to other areas, setting up nesting boxes so those that take up residency can be tracked and their eggs oiled so that they do not hatch with a final lethal take on 25 birds, targeting the hens. Would also include snail studies on the two species of snails that are hosts to the organisms that cause the disease, check infection rates and do organism counts on entire lake and remove areas of large algae nutrients caused from phosphates (fertilizers) that the snails feed upon. Home owners in the water shed areas of Higgins Lake should try to be wary of what type of fertilizers they are using on lawns (low or no phosphates) and keeping septic tanks and fields properly pumped and maintained to help eliminate excess ground run off that goes into the lake and causes nutrient food sources for these snails. Swimmer's Itch is a 2-host disease that cycles between the Common Mergansers and the two specific snail species.

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING

- May 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. "Spring Weather Spotter Class" will be presented by the Gaylord National Weather Service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Hill

Julie Hill, ACT NOW Secretary