

Meeting called to order by Caroline Rediske.

Members present: Caroline Rediske, Faye Brittan, Rod Preble

Motion by Rod Preble to move agenda item #8 to #3. Seconded by Faye Brittan. All in favor. Carried.

Discussion was held on managing problems caused by urban Canada geese. Many areas in the Village provide excellent goose habitat. Well-kept lawns, parks and recreational fields provide excellent spring, summer and fall forage. These areas often contain water reservoirs, lakes, ponds and marshes that are dotted with islands providing safe nesting sites for geese. In addition, the traditional predators of geese are present in low numbers or are absent in most urban areas, and hunting pressure is low or nonexistent. The goose population is large and will continue to increase. While some people enjoy seeing geese in urban areas, others consider them a nuisance. Large flocks leave behind a large amount of fecal material, especially if the geese routinely use the same sites. Their defecations can reduce the water quality of ponds and lakes and spoil the lawns of parks. The Balsam Lake beach has had to close due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria recently and is now in a swimming advisory. The Polk County Health Department recommends swimmers take caution when swimming at any beach, especially after heavy rains. Geese also have been blamed for damaging lawns and shrubbery. For these reasons the committee met with representatives from the BLPRD, BLHA, Balsam Lake Rod & Gun Club and local lake home owners at today's meeting to discuss managing the problems caused by the geese within the Village. The committee members also spoke with the US Fish & Wildlife department. If nonlethal control efforts are unsuccessful and the Village has tried many without success then lethal control may be an option. The three methods discussed are legal hunting, egg destruction and euthanasia of adult geese by government officials. Legal hunting can be effective in reducing local populations and deterring geese from using areas that are hunted. The hunting is in the fall from September 1st – 15th. All hunting must comply with local, state, and federal regulations regarding the harvest of geese. A goose hunting zone map would need to be created along with a goose hunting permit application. Members reviewed the City of Amery's documents as they do allow hunting of geese. The Village Board would need to amend the current hunting ordinance and also create a new ordinance that would allow hunting of geese. This item will be brought before the committee on the 25th. Members of the BLPRD, BLHA, Rod & Gun Club will comply a list for the committee regarding proposed dates/times/zones and the # of permits. Egg destruction requires special permits. Euthanasia of adult geese is used as a large-scale damage control measure. This technique involves the roundup of adult geese during molt. A representative from the US Fish & Wildlife department would be available in February and help with the permit process.

The Pine Park camping fee revenues look satisfactory so the collection fee process will remain the same.

Plans are still underway to create a walking path from Main Street to the Balsam Lake Beach.

Discussion was held regarding a collection box at the boat landing which would state there will be a \$8.00 fee to launch your boat at the landing. More research will be done by members.

Members were in favor to explore improving the underwater boat landing cement pad by extending it, which could possibly cut down on the power loading problems.

Motion by Rod Preble to adjourn. Seconded by Faye Brittan. Carried.
Lori Duncan, Village Clerk Treasurer