

GERRISH TOWNSHIP BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
GERRISH TOWNSHIP WITH LYON TOWNSHIP  
SWIMMER'S ITCH  
July 21, 2015

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm at the Gerrish Township Municipal Center. Present from Gerrish Township Board: Supervisor Homola, Clerk Patchin, Treasurer Tulgetske, Trustee Link, Trustee Lippert. Present from Lyon Township Board: Supervisor Nellist, Treasurer Williams, Trustee DeHaan, Trustee Munoz. Absent: Clerk Reno. Also present: Ken Dennings from HLSIO, Steve Sendek from Northpoint Fisheries & 21 citizen.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion by Link supported by Lippert: CARRIED  
That the agenda be approved as presented.

Discussed: Should the Swimmer's Itch Task Force Continue?

-Gerrish Township would like to continue having a Swimmer's Itch Task noting the benefits from the additional members and the research provided by the Swimmer's Itch Task Force past and future.

-Lyon Township agreed to the benefits but noted that the same information was being provided at the joint board meetings with the Swimmer's Itch Task Force meeting immediately following.

-Both Boards agreed that the Swimmer's Itch Task Force could continue meeting every other month and that both Lyon and Gerrish joint board meetings could continue quarterly. Bylaws, including membership, for the Swimmer's Itch Task Force will be drawn up and addressed by both boards at upcoming joint board meeting on Tuesday September 22, 2015 at 2:00 pm at the Lyon Township Hall.

1. Update on Northpoint Fisheries Management program provided by Steve Sendek

-Lethal take concluded May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dr Mark Luttenton is researching (without funding) on the nutrient levels of water in heavy snail bed areas. Northpoint is eager to see the MSU Nutrient Loading study that will be released pertaining to this sometime this fall. Possible fall duck hunt for Common Mergansers.

2. Update on SICon, LLC program provided by Ken Dennings from the HLSIO

-96 mergansers were removed from Higgins Lake, 9808 snails have been collected with a 2.07% infection rate, over 166 people have attended the open house informational meetings, over 100 cases of Swimmer's Itch have been reported, sampling of Mallard Ducks and Canadian Geese have shown no infection for Swimmer's Itch, a fundraiser for the HLSIO will be held August 27, 2015, SICon will be done on July 31<sup>st</sup>.

3. Snail Bed Raking

Supervisor Homola informed the townships intention to rake bottomlands in two of the snail beds in Gerrish Township. The raking would occur at Kelly Beach and the Gerrish Township Park. Both snail beds have been identified as snail bed 'hot spots'. Raking will not occur until after July 31, 2015.

4. Mary Link informed the boards that Gerrish Township is currently working on an ordinance for the inspection of septic systems to help address the high nutrient levels in the lake creating more algae and possibly creating conditions favorable for snail beds.

Public Comments:

- Concerns that information is not readily available on where to report Swimmer's Itch including signs at State Parks.
- A citizen expressed that the township owned properties, specifically Gerrish Township Park, will need to also follow any Septic Ordinance implemented by Gerrish Township.
- Question of Zebra Mussels playing a role in the Swimmer's Itch situation.
- Concerns of what raking snail bed might do to cooper sulfate settled in the bottom of the lake.
- Question on if the duck nesting boxes were successful for this year.
- Questions on if the duck nesting boxes would invite more common mergansers to lake.

Announcements

-Next Gerrish/Lyon Joint Township Board meeting will be held September 22, 2015, 2:00 pm at the Lyon Township Hall.

Townships will work on providing signs on how to report Swimmer's Itch in those areas where the Swimmer's Itch informational pamphlet is not available.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm

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Kathleen Patchin, Clerk

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Frank Homola, Supervisor

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