



LAKE SHORES ASSOCIATION • BOX 63 • HOWARD CITY, MI 49329 • OCTOBER 1998

Brooks Township Road Improvement Project

By Terry Kaiserlain, Special to the River Valley Record

Newyago — Are you unhappy with current road conditions in Brooks Township? Would you like to see these roads upgraded and fully maintained?

If your answer is "yes" to either or both of these questions, you are not alone. There are over forty-nine miles of local roads in Brooks Township. Of this forty-nine miles, ten miles are paved, leaving over thirty-nine miles of dirt roads. Unfortunately, these dirt roads are poorly maintained and many times, depending on weather conditions, barely drivable. Township general fund contributions, plus county road funds can only provide basic maintenance for existing roads.

Like most other townships, Brooks Township is made up of three categories of roads; State trunkline roads (M-82 and M-37), County primary roads (Croton Drive, Spruce, & 88th St.), and County local and seasonal roads (all other paved & unpaved roads).

The Newyago County Road Commission is charged by the State with the responsibility for maintaining primary and local roads. Maintenance is defined as keeping roads reasonably safe and convenient for travel. Currently, the Newyago County Road Commission does not have sufficient funds to do any additional primary or local road improvements within Brooks Township.

With approval and support from the Brooks Township Board, the Brooks Township Road Committee (made up of local residents) has been working to establish a long-term program for the maintenance and improvement of local roads in the township. After much research, the committee discovered that the quickest and most cost effective way to fully maintain and improve roads in Brooks Township is to pass a millage. They are not alone in this conclusion, currently eleven other townships in Newyago County have passed millages for road improvement projects. Voters in Grant Township are so pleased with their three mill road tax, they voted to renew it in the last election held Aug. 4. On Nov. 4, 1998, Brooks Township voters will have the option of improving and upgrading their roads with a two mill tax levy.

The bottom line is Brooks Township is a growing township located in one of Michigan's fastest growing regions. The roads in Brooks Township are not keeping pace with the township's growth and development. Without a millage, there can be no road improvement program.

Welcome Your New Board

The new board has convened and has been selected for their positions. Some new divisions of labor have been made.

•Brian Vincent – President •Terry Veneklas – Vice President
 •Lucas Spoor – Treasurer •Kathleen Thompson – Secretary
 •Scott Brooks – Maintenance Coordinator

Tee Pee Island

Mike Walker and crew can not get the seawall done this year. We are penciled in for his first wall next year. Since the delay we will again accept bids because of the ever changing wood prices. If you know of someone interested and experienced in seawalls please let us know. Our goal is to reclaim as much of the island as possible. It is dependent on the DEQ's (Department of Environmental Quality) approval.

Park Maintenance

We will again be hiring teenagers to help maintain the parks! Priority will be given to lake members but local teenagers are welcome. Both young men and women should apply with Scott Brooks.

Each teenager will be assigned a park(s) and will be responsible for its maintenance and improvements. The parks have not been improved for years. We were using a mowing company and that is all they did. We are excited to see the parks improve again!

We need help getting the riding lawn mower tractor and push mower running again. They have set for years and weren't in the best of shape when they were retired. If you have a mechanical gift, please let Scott know. Of course the LSA will pay for all parts.

Signs

We will be placing signs up at the East (Arbogast) entrance of the lake (currently unmarked) as well as some Private/Members only signs. If anyone has a recommendation of companies please call Kathy Thompson.

The map at the main entrance needs repainting or at least some major touch ups. The Bulletin board needs to be painted white too. If anyone is interested please let Lucas Spoor know.

The Goodyk family (West Suwanee) has offered to repaint the main lake entrance sign. Wow! Thank you.

Guard Rail

We need to place a barrier at each end of the dike to minimize erosion. Pedestrian and bicycle traffic are always welcome and encouraged but motorbike and four wheelers cause excessive

damage to the terrain and expedite erosion thus causing possible failure of the dike. Temporary concrete highway dividers were priced but were not a viable option; too expensive (\$800) and the truck can not make it through the beach sand for proper placement. We have elected to use metal guardrails.

Mr. Don Postma (former board member, lives on West Suwanee) agreed to pick up the materials and help with its installation. We will post a sign of the time and date. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS. It will take approximately 2 hours. Our goal is to get this done in September.

Boat Ramp

We will be locking down the boat ramp next year on most Fridays and Saturdays and all holiday weekends. We will be hiring a monitor to unlock the chain gate to only paid Lake Members with stickered boats. They will be enforcing guest passes. The goal is to increase safety on the lake by limiting unwelcome visitors and to enforce up to date boat stickers. We will have to build some type of shelter for the monitor. Builders - Step up! We need your expertise. We would like to have a pool of monitors and would prefer older teenagers or adults. The proposed hours are 4-8 pm on Friday and 7 am to 4 pm on Saturday.

Boat Stickers

Please get your boat stickers. They are free! All the boats need a sticker. The light blue stickers are expired and need replacement. There will be one fall sign up and two spring mass registrations at the boat ramp. Michigan boat registrations are required (if possible) to prove ownership. For paddle, sail, canoes, and rowboats without registrations we will have a form, which states that you own the boat. We are trying to be agreeable as possible while trying to ensure people don't get stickers for their friends boats. Please how can we ask people to leave our PRIVATE lake when our members don't have their stickers?

Welcome / Introduction Volunteers

Mrs. Ringler (Cochise Trail) has offered to visit new homeowners and explain the lake rules. With as fast as houses are being built and/or changing hands she will need lots of help! If you would agree to just do

your street please let Kathy Thompson or Terry Veneklase know. We will get your name and number to Mrs. Ringler. It gives you an excuse to meet your neighbors and improve boating/swimming safety. We are estimating a volunteer would only have to talk to 3 new people a summer depending how many volunteers we get. It will also insure that the LSA gets up to date information.

Boat Registration and Fishing License Clarification

At the annual meeting this spring some misinformation was shared by a fellow homeowner. By DNR/DEQ laws we are required to have fishing licenses to legally fish on Indian Lake. State law requires that all boats be registered. Even though our lake is private we have water that exits the lake thus requiring the licenses. We must be prepared to follow the law.

Police Presence

We are requesting the presence of the Montcalm County Sheriff Marine Patrol on the lake for at least one day of each holiday weekend next year.

We have just learned that the Montcalm County Mounted Division is available for foot/horse patrol. This is an option to help us enforce boat stickering since they have jurisdiction and may be able to issue trespassing citations for unstickered and/or unpaid dues member's boats. This is still under consideration.

Pig Roast

The pig roast was a riot. Money was raised for the improvement of the Abbott pavilion. Our goal is to improve the pavilion every year. The pig roast gives us the opportunity to celebrate summer with our neighbors and raise money for the improvements. If you would be interested in working on the Abbott pavilion this fall or next spring let Scott Brooks know. We are trying to form a committee to keep the progress moving forward. Please help hang drywall or rough plumb the proposed bathrooms let yourself be known. Remember this building is available to all LSA members. Call Terry to get on next year's schedule.



Goal Setting

The new board is in the process of setting their goals for the year. Our primary directives so far are:

1. Update membership lists and cross reference with the county tax roles.
2. Change over to the new computer book keeping software
3. Maintain and lake security and cite trespassers
4. Foreclose on overdue liens
5. Improve parks including:
 - a. Cedar Point Park point
 - b. Boat ramp shelter
 - c. Pavilion improvements
 - d. Island seawall
 - e. Guard rail on the dike

This list is not all-inclusive so if you have a project we should be concentrating on make contact.

Roads

Enclosed is a copy of an article from the River Valley Shopper 9/14/98 regarding Brooks Township (Brooks Lake area).

The status of our road mess is that the township is conducting an engineering assessment. We will update you, as the information becomes available.

.....

Phone numbers you should know:

Brian Vincent
459-6251 (work)

Terry Veneklase
937-6251

Scott Brooks
937-5646

Kathy Thompson
937-6009

Lucas Spoor
937-5814

.....

*A lake map is enclosed for your convenience. Please frame it (or at least keep for future reference).

*Please remember to remove all boats and docks from the parks or they will be removed for you and you will lose your park privileges. Please don't abuse this right.