

## FRIENDS LAKE COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY

### GUIDELINES FOR SAFETY AND COMMUNITY

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We aspire to building and sharing a place where people live in harmony with the rest of nature; where there is neither violence nor threat of violence; where decision making is primarily by consensus; where mutual helpfulness is a norm; where there is peace and quiet for reflection and meditation and where the joy of life is celebrated.

Individual adults are responsible for the safety of themselves, their children, and their guests--for integration into the community spirit and for sensitivity to others' values and aspirations.

These guidelines reflect many years of community process. Members are encouraged to contribute to this process at the monthly Community/Board meetings and to read the newsletter to keep abreast of changes in policy.

We are all responsible for co-creating our Community and enabling it to function the way we want it to.

Members should take special care to explain FLCC customs and policies to their children and their guests. If disagreements regarding Community policy cannot be resolved by the parties involved, the matter should be brought to the next FLCC Board meeting.

Patience and sensitivity will see us through.

#### **IS FRIENDS LAKE FOR YOU? WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:**

Our name is Friends Lake Cooperative Community. Emphasis is on all four words.

**Friends/friends:** derived from the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), this indicates a commitment to living and working together in a manner consistent with the awareness of the Divine in all things, that is, with loving respect. **Lake:** a plant and wildlife preserve on a lake, a space that we enjoy and cherish as it cherishes and nurtures us, in mutual support. **Cooperative:** a place to work together. **Community:** to join together and share; to do the work of communicating, of agreeing to listen, to be introspective about our own fears that block communication, to listen from the Divine in ourselves and to speak to the Divine in others.

We are an intentional community, rather than a beach club. Recreation is important, but not the sole reason FLCC was founded. The Community was started by a small group of people who knew each other well. It was apparent to all that the sustaining of the Community depended on each person's willingness to participate. With more people, it is even more necessary to commit not only to the task of sustaining the property and environment, but to the task of building and sharing relationships. FLCC was formed with the idea that whatever needed to be done would be done with shared labor as much as possible. There was no "staff", nor intention that there be. Work parties built most of our facilities, laid sand for our beaches, and planted our spruces. Children and adults were empowered together, as essential parts of the community.

For years we had no resident to oversee beach and campground. Eventually there was a

“resident-camper,” a person who summered in a tent in the campground and was available to help in small ways; later, because of winter vandalism, the log cabin was converted from community space to a resident’s home. After some time, the resident in the summer became the “coordinator” (not a manager). Currently, there is a renter in the log cabin, and nobody in the role of coordinator/caretaker; thus we are still, as before, directed to care for the community ourselves.

The question of rules was raised early in our history. It was decided that we needed guidelines. Guidelines are a reminder to live from the mature and loving part of ourselves. We are each, and all, asked to be responsible. Our community is a place we can put concepts of generosity, kindness, and sensitivity into practice. With freedom comes responsibility. If we enhance Community, with its responsibilities, we won’t need to hire a “policing” person. Sometimes a fellow community member has been moved to remind a person of the guidelines lest someone be injured or caused discomfort. Examples are: dogs that run loose in the beach or campground area, scaring children or stealing food; unattended children whose lack of supervision may get them into trouble; people without lifejackets in the boats (an absolute state law); and people fishing from the raft or swim areas; or loud music. We ask that such reminders be greeted with gratitude in the spirit with which they are offered – that we are building a community together.

Please keep these guidelines handy and inquire about those that raise questions for you. Make sure that you take responsibility for helping your guests understand the guidelines, too. Know that you are welcome at board meetings (they are open), and that your labor, your ideas, and your sensitivity are all needed to help us more fully create that community to which we aspire.

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**WILDLIFE.** Friends Lake Community provides a wealth of unspoiled beauty. To preserve this heritage, we have designated our land as a wildlife preserve. This means we do not catch frogs, toads, salamanders, snakes, etc. They each have their place. We do allow natural foods to be gathered for personal consumption, e.g., fish, berries and mushrooms. Please do not feed the wild geese, because their droppings are a nuisance on the beach.

**FISHING.** Fishing can be done from a boat (not from rafts, or from docks or shoreline in the main shared areas – see Appendix A), and only with the intent of personal consumption. While fishing regulations may mean some “catch and release” occurs, that should not be the goal or general practice. We follow state law, and an adult must have a fishing license to either fish, or to accompany a youth/child fishing. Fishing tackle should not be left unattended in public areas because of the risk to small children. Barbless hooks are recommended, and we ask that fish not be cleaned in the beach area. **The full policy is included at the end of these Guidelines as Appendix A.**

**MOTOR VEHICLES.** To preserve peace and quiet, mini-bikes and motorboats are not allowed at FLCC. Other vehicles such as snowmobiles and motorcycles are used only for access and should remain on the beach road. Due to the fragile condition of the interior road, it is not used by motor vehicles except for necessary access by cabin site-holders and their guests, in good weather. Please drive slowly and watch for pedestrians.

**NOISE.** The volume of any device (phone, radio, laptop, including zoom calls and the like)

should be kept so low that the sound can be heard only by the user. The use of earphones is advisable and may be necessary. Most members wish to escape such distractions.

**ALCOHOL, TOBACCO and WEAPONS.** We ask members and guests not to drink alcoholic beverages in community-used areas such as the picnic grounds or the beach house. Smoking, weapons (including firearms), and illegal substance use are not permitted on FLCC property.

**DOGS.** Dogs at FLCC must be with their owners at all times and must always be leashed except between 10 and 11 am each day. At all times, any off-leash dog must be leashed at the request of another person. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up after their dogs; a shovel is available if needed. We expect owners to take whatever steps are needed to prevent fights and minimize barking and other behavior that would interfere with our peace and quiet. In addition, between April 1 and September 30, dogs are not to be in the water at the children's beach, and are not to be on shore or in the water at the adult beach area between 4 and 9 pm on weekdays, and between 2 and 9 pm on weekends and holidays. CURRENT DETAILS OF DOG POLICY ARE POSTED in multiple places in common areas, and **the full policy is included at the end of these Guidelines as Appendix B.**

**TRASH DISPOSAL.** All garbage and other trash should be taken home by members and guests when they leave. THERE IS NO GARBAGE SERVICE AT FLCC. Please avoid or minimize use of glass bottles near the waterfront, so that broken glass will not be an issue for children in the water.

**VOLUNTEER WORK.** To help keep costs down and in the spirit of community, all members are expected to give four hours of work per year to the physical maintenance of the Community. Persons camping or renting at the lake are invited to work additionally during their visit (perhaps one hour per weekend). See the Kiosk Volunteer worklist for suggestions and equipment. We have a modest supply of tools in the boathouse, but you are encouraged to bring your own (if you can) when you come to work. Donations of tools and materials are welcome, and should be discussed and coordinated with the Property Committee. Persons unable to do their manual labor are expected to pay a work-fee in lieu of work each year to be used to employ others.

**COMMUNITY BUILDINGS.** The neatness of the Community buildings depends on all of us. Never leave valuables unattended in the beach-house or on the beach. Lock them in your car. When leaving the beach, take your swimsuit, towel, garbage, etc., with you. Abandoned articles are recycled.

**LOG CABIN.** The log cabin is home to the FLCC tenant, and is not a public building. Outgoing calls are permissible in the case of an emergency.

**PARKING.** Members and guests may park in the lot just before the log cabin or in the **electric line cut** if needed. This is along the entry drive, just across from the Michigan Friends Center. Visitors who come as part of an organized group are asked to park in the electric line cut. Campers must park at the electric line cut; however, sites #1 and 2, designated for persons with special physical needs, allow on-site parking.

**SAUNA.** Members and guests are welcome to use the sauna. It is important to follow the posted instructions for use. No one should use the sauna alone. Although the sauna can be a pleasurable and healthful experience, there are potential dangers. Persons with high or low blood pressure, heart problems, or who are taking certain medications should use the sauna only with the consent

of their health practitioner. A sauna is not recommended for young children or pregnant women. Metal and jewelry taken into the sauna may cause burns. Sit on towels on the benches.

**SKINNY DIPPING.** Please refrain from obvious skinny-dipping.

**OPEN FIRES.** Fires in the campground are restricted to the designated stone fire rings, and sufficient area should be cleared around the ring to prevent grass fires. Fires must be out before being left unattended. Campers are encouraged not to build large fires, because of the proximity of the spruce forest. Fires should never be built in the forest, even by persons who may be camping there. We expect people to follow the DNR fire guidelines.

**FIREWOOD.** **No outside firewood shall be brought in to FLCC,** to help prevent the spread of tree disease. Wood stacked by the sauna, fire circle at the beach and boathouse is for the sauna, beach-house, and main fire circle by the beach only. Please do not use the renter's personal supply, which is in the enclosure by the log cabin. Campers may use hand tools to cut **downed firewood** in the FLCC forest and are encouraged to use wood that is close to the path. No wood should be cut from standing trees for this purpose.

**GOOD NEIGHBORS.** We share Long Lake with families on the opposite shore. To be good neighbors, we respect their property and customs. Please do not use their rafts or walk on their property. Please refrain from late night noise, as it travels easily over the lake. Neighbors and FLCC members in general value the peace and quiet of the lake and surroundings.

**ORGANIZED GROUPS.** During the summer, group use of the waterfront or campground is ordinarily limited to one group at a time of up to 20 people. Groups over 20 or repeated use requires approval of the Board after consultation with the membership committee convener, and two weeks' advance notice for the request. Groups using the lake on weekends are encouraged to park in the electric line cut and to eat away from the beach, so as not to interfere with use by our members. Group participants who do not belong to FLCC are expected to pay non-member daily use fees (see Special Fees).

**GUESTS.** Members may bring guests (see Special Fees) with them for picnicking, swimming, camping, etc. Children are free as guests through their 18<sup>th</sup> year. Day fees for adult guests are posted, and adult guests are permitted four visits per calendar year. Members' children and grandchildren who are 21 years of age and younger and who live with them do not pay guest fees when accompanied by the member.

Members are responsible for seeing that their guests understand these Guidelines, which can be found on our website and at the Kiosk. Members are responsible for the safety, welfare and conduct of their guests.

**Childcare providers (including nannies, babysitters, or family members) cannot bring members' children to FLCC without a member.**

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. Potential members are entitled to one free trial visit.** Persons unaffiliated with, but interested in, Friends Lake may visit at no charge for one day (or in the case of a camp over, for one day and one night). Trial visits are at the discretion of and must be prearranged with a representative of the Membership Committee.

FLCC offers an Extended Guest Pass for unlimited visits for use by members who have a guest

visiting for up to two months, for the special rate of \$60. This Pass must be requested from and approved by the Membership Committee, after discussion with a representative.

## **TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP**

**BASIC MEMBERS.** Basic members enjoy the many community facilities- the beaches, the boats, the lake and woods, and the campground. Members have free camping privileges without additional fees (see Time Limits). Membership is open without discrimination to persons who share the values of this Community and wish to share in its benefits and responsibilities. Annual (Jan. 1 -Dec. 31) basic membership fees reflect proximity to FLCC and the number of adults in the household. Dependent children are included in parents' membership, as are grandchildren who live with them. Children are not members in their own right, and must be accompanied at all times by their parents or another adult member. (Special Youth Membership privileges for 17–21-year-old children of adult members can be arranged with the membership committee.)

**PARTICIPATING MEMBERS.** Those who wish to participate more fully in the community by serving on the Board may become Participating Members by making a one-time contribution in addition to the regular annual membership fees. To become a Participating Member, a person ordinarily must participate as a Basic Member for at least a year, meet with a clearness committee, and be approved by the Board of Directors. Participating members have extensive free guest privileges and can vote at annual meetings **while serving on the board.**

**SUSTAINING MEMBERS.** Those who wish to participate more fully in the community may become Sustaining Members by making a one-time contribution in addition to the regular annual membership fees. Active Sustaining Members have extensive free guest privileges and are eligible to serve on the Board of Directors and vote at annual meetings. To become a Sustaining Member, a person ordinarily must participate as a Basic Member for at least a year, meet with a clearness committee, and be approved by the Board of Directors. Sustaining Members may lease available cabin sites. Detailed information can be obtained from the president of FLCC.

**SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS.** Subscribing membership is intended for persons who do not expect to be at the lake during an entire calendar year, but who would like to continue to receive the newsletter and to support the Community. Subscribing Sustaining Members passing through the area may stop for a brief daytime visit. but those wishing to use the lake for more than such a brief visit are expected to pay standard day use fees for a day or two of use, and to pay active annual dues if they use the lake more than two days during a given year. Subscribing Basic Members are expected to pay double the daily use fees if they visit the lake at all, or to pay active annual dues if they use the lake more than two days in a given year.

## **SPECIAL FEES**

**NOTE:** The following special fees are per adult (children who are guests are free through age 18, except in children's groups), and are payable at the kiosk dropbox or via Venmo. Checks should be made out to Friends Lake Cooperative Community. Brand new members (but not rejoining members) joining after August 1st pay only half the usual annual membership dues. Special fees are for non-member fees, long term user fees and rental fees (see following).

**NON-MEMBER FEES.** **Guests of any member must be accompanied by the member at all times.** The member is responsible for paying guest fees on arrival and is asked to bring correct change (or check), or to pay via Venmo.

(a) A guest accompanied by an Active Basic Member: \$5 per daytime visit, and \$10/ night for overnight camp-out.

(b) A guest accompanied by an Active Sustaining Member is free except for long-term residential visits (below).

(c) Non-Members in Organized Groups. These visits must be arranged in advance; contact the membership committee convener. These persons pay \$10 per daytime visit or overnight camp-out. For groups of children such as school classes or camps: **\$5.00** per day/night per non-member child. (d) Non-Member Renters of Beach House or Private Structures. Non-members who rent the Beach House or a private cabin at FLCC: \$10 per day (Beach House renter) or night (cabin renter) in addition to any rental fee.

#### LONG-TERM USER FEES.

Long-term Guest of Sustaining Members. FLCC welcomes family reunions and other celebrations by members. The free guest privileges of Active Sustaining Members are intended primarily to cover short-term guests. When Active Sustaining Members have any given long-term guest staying at the lake for more than three consecutive days (or, in the case of cabin owners, more than seven days,) and making use of community facilities such as the waterfront or campground, those members are encouraged to make a contribution to the Community treasury commensurate with that use. This applies to Active Sustaining Members whose long-term guests are their independent adult children or other relatives, as well as to non-relatives. Long-term guests are also encouraged to participate in the Community's volunteer work program.

Long Term Visits by Distant Members. When members living more than 50 miles from FLCC choose to camp or otherwise stay at the lake for more than 14 nights in a given year, their usage exceeds that of most local members, so they are expected to pay local dues per adult for that year.

#### RENTAL FEES

All rental fees remain the same year-round, and apply to members, guests, or non-members. Renters must be 21 and non-members must pay non-member daily use fees (see non-member fees) in addition to the standard rental fee. **All Camping and Rental Fees are to be left in the Kiosk dropbox (or paid via Venmo) at the time of arrival, and a listing of all the names of the members and their guests and the respective license plate numbers of their vehicles is to be added to the camping sign-in sheet.**

(a) The Beach House is a cabin with a woodstove and electric lights. It is adjacent to the sauna and has a broad view of the lake. It may be reserved and rented, off-season only, by people wishing to use it during the day for meetings or personal retreats. When not reserved off-season, and throughout the summer, the Beach House is available for non-exclusive use by members without charge.

(b) A site on the crest of a hill at the west end of FLCC has a beautiful view of the lake, a picnic table, and nearby well. The site may be used by only one party at a time. It is available for daytime picnic use and overnight camping with payment of the camping fee. No fires are permitted at this site due to safety concerns.

## CAMPING

### STRUCTURES AND SITES

- (a) Camping tents may be pitched in the lakeside campground and adjoining spruce forest, the special campsite overlooking the lake at the west end of FLCC, and (by arrangement with the owners) on any unoccupied cabin/tent-platform site in the hills.
- (b) Soft-sided tent-trailers may be used on campsites #1 and #2.
- (c) Vans and campers can be parked in the group campground area.

### TIME LIMITS

The maximum time allowed for camping by any one party in any given year is three months, only one month of which can be from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Sustaining members may camp for one month at no extra charge. Basic members may have two weeks of free camping per year, after which they will be charged \$5 per night per site (not per person), to be paid in advance. Camping equipment may not be unoccupied for more than one night; any applicable fee applies.

On request from another member, a camper who will have occupied a given site for two consecutive weeks may be asked to move to another site with three days' notice. Exceptions to the above can be made only with permission of the Board of Directors.

**OPEN FIRES AND FIREWOOD: See general guidelines on Firewood and Open Fires (page 4).**

## SWIMMING

**Please note there is no lifeguard at FLCC, and parents are responsible for the safety of their children.**

A "swimmer" (who may use the adult beach) is one who can swim to the closer raft (without flotation aids), circle the raft three times, and return. Parents must supervise this swimming test for their children. Non-swimmers are to use the adult beach only if directly supervised by a parent or responsible adult.

Swimming under the raft is dangerous; please do not rock the raft or push others off the raft.

LIFEJACKETS belonging to FLCC are for boating safety use only. Please bring your own lifejackets for swimming.

As we share the lake with people who own and use motorboats and jet skis, we expect LONG DISTANCE SWIMMERS to wear a brightly colored bathing cap or to take something with them that makes them easy to see. When a speedboat appears, especially when any neighbor is water-skiing, swimmers should return to within 100 feet of the raft or 100 feet of the shore unless they have made other arrangements with the driver of the boat. Night swimmers are reminded that motorboats cannot see them. By law, swimmers SNORKELING more than 100 feet from the raft or shore should have and use a floating flag for safety from motorboats.

## **BOATING**

CANOES, ROWBOATS, KAYAKS and SUPs (stand up paddle boards): You are called a "BOATER" and welcome to use the canoes, rowboats, kayaks, and SUPs, if 1) you are 16 or over and know how to handle the boats/SUPs or 2) you are under 16 and have taken the distance swim test (swimming across the lake and back, accompanied by a rowboat) and have learned how to handle the boats/SUPs. Parents must supervise this test. Life jackets are required.

SAILBOATS: Use of sailboats is restricted to members of FLCC who are experienced sailors and who know how to rig our boats before taking them out. Inexperienced sailors may learn from others -- ask around.

LIFEJACKETS: A life jacket for each person in a boat is required by Michigan law. Please do not sit on life jackets (they are fragile) or allow them to soak up water in the bottom of the boat. Non-swimmers and non-boaters in boats are expected to WEAR life jackets. Children under 13, regardless of their swimming or boating ability are also required to wear life jackets. Sailors are encouraged to wear them when winds are gusty or strong.

PADDLES AND OARS: Paddles and oars are fragile; handle with care, refrain from jamming the blade ends into the ground, and please return them to proper storage.

### **BOATING RULES:**

1. Non-boaters under 16 years old are expected to be accompanied by a boater 16 years or older, with parental approval and guidance
2. A 45-minute time limit is suggested on Community boats when others are waiting to use them. Please check in occasionally to see if someone is waiting. Boats should be returned to the boating beach when not in use (not left at the campground or elsewhere) so they will be available for others to use.
3. Boats should stay out of areas where people are swimming, including the non-swimmers' wading area and the area between the raft and the shore. Boats should never tie up at the raft.
4. Boats should move to the side of the lake or the campground end of the lake whenever speedboats appear, especially when any neighbors are water-skiing - to be courteous to them and for our own safety.
5. Life jackets, paddles, oars, sails, and daggerboards should be returned to storage after use, not left in the boat, unless another person is waiting to use them immediately.
6. Persons using boats are expected to reimburse the Community for any damage to life jackets, paddles, oars, rudders, etc., which they may incur through negligence or misuse.

### **STORM SAFETY**

Because thunderstorms may come up quickly, boats should head for home well in advance of a storm's anticipated arrival. Remaining on the raft or in the water during an electrical storm is also dangerous. In the event of a storm, it is advisable for everyone to get off the beach and away from possible falling branches as soon as possible. Please help children, pets, and anyone who needs assistance, to get to safety. The Beach House is our best refuge.

## **MONTHLY COMMUNITY-BOARD MEETINGS**

We welcome members to attend any or all board meetings, which use the Quaker process of consensus in decision-making. These are announced in the monthly newsletter you will receive as a member. We look forward to knowing you.

### **Membership Committee**

**Ann Alvarez, Convener**

**Laoma Beck**

**Susan Flinders**

**Sue Iskenderian**

**Shari Kane**

**Nancy Rucker**

**Robyn Rontal, Ex Officio**

**Tony Alvarez, Ex Officio**

**Revised 1993 (updated 1998, 2009, 2016, 2017), 2021**

**Daily adult guest fee modified through Board approval 5/12/2022**

## **APPENDICES**

### **APPENDIX A. FISHING POLICY**

#### **Minute 2018.09-#01: Fishing Policy**

1. All adults and children must obey all state legal regulations regarding fishing. A copy of the current Michigan State Fishing regulation is available at the caretaker's cabin. Among these fishing regulations is the requirement that the parent supervising a child's fishing activity must have a fishing license.
2. All children must be directly supervised by adults while fishing at Friends Lake,
3. Fishing will be done only for personal consumption as stated in our community guidelines. Aside from fish released because of not being of legal size to keep or too small to eat, we will not fish with the intent to “catch and release”.
4. No shore fishing is permitted in the area between the log cabin and 30 feet past the sandy beach at the adult swim area or from any docks in this area.
5. FLCC members will not fish in any of our weeded swimming or wading areas or from our rafts.
6. To be consistent with community guidelines concerning our respect for animals in our wildlife preserve, there will be no fishing, netting, catching, or otherwise interfering with the fish (or other creatures) for play or “observation” from the land or in the waters near the shore by children or adults.
7. We suggest that the caught fish be handled in a humane manner with the least suffering including the use of barbless hooks.
8. In sensitivity to the feelings of others, we ask people who have been fishing to not kill or clean the fish they have caught at the beach, which is a very public area, but in the camping area, homes, or cabins.

### **APPENDIX B. DOG POLICY**

#### **Minute 12-06-03 [Revised Dog Policy] – reaffirmed by the FLCC Board June 2021**

Dogs at Friends Lake shall be managed according to the following two principles:

- a) Dogs must be under control of their owners at all times when on Friends Lake property and
- b) Dogs must be managed so as not to interfere with the safety and comfort of other Friends Lake members.

Owners are expected to prevent dog fights and to minimize barking and other behavior that would interfere with our peace and quiet. Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up immediately after their dogs.

Throughout the year, dogs in common area (i.e., areas other than leaseholds) are to be leashed when others (i.e., persons not accompanying the owner) are present, except from 10-11 am each day.

From 10-11 am each day, 7 days a week, is a time set aside for dogs and dog owners to have dogs off leash at the beach. If this conflicts with other groups that want to meet at the lake, the dog owners could be asked to change the time.

If a member requests that an off-leash dog be put on a leash, the owner is expected to comply even during times or dates when off-leash dogs are generally allowed.

The following additional control provisions are in effect during the extended summer season (April 1 – September 30):

- Dogs are not allowed to swim in the wading area at the beach for the safety of small children
- During peak use time (12:00 noon – 9:00 p.m.):
  - a) Dogs in high-use areas (entire beach area including parking lot and adult swim area) must be on a leash of no more than 6 feet.
  - b) Dogs tied up in high-use areas must be where the owner can see the dog.
- Between 4 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on weekdays and 2 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on holidays and weekends, dogs are not allowed in the adult swim area (beach or water) in consideration of members who are uncomfortable with dogs there.

Special provisions will be made for assistance dogs in accordance with state and federal law and the needs of those being assisted.

This policy shall be published in the guidelines.