

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday May 4, 2024

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Laurie Patrick at 9:05AM. The meeting was held at 37510 Sunrise View Rd. Present were Jerry Blazevic, Joann Murphy, Laurie Patrick, Dan Benzie, Noah Cashman, John Tasky, Chip Wells & Loren Radtke. Excused were Russ Rechtzigel and Bill Yechout. Absent was Kathy Burkard. Guests were Bill Patrick & Bill Lyon.
- II. Laurie asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Noah asked for a discussion on meeting location and insurance under New Business.
- III. The minutes of the December 12, 2023 board meeting were sent out earlier. A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Jerry to approve the minutes. APPROVED
- IV. Dan presented the financial report. The current balance is \$111011.55. He asked that members that had invoices to be paid bring them to the meetings this summer. Motion for approval from Chip second by Noah. APPROVED
- V. Joann reported that 158 membership forms were sent out to property owners on Sand that were not members last year. 360 newsletters and 2024 membership forms will be mailed out early next week to the membership from last year.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Lakes-
 - i. Sand-Jerry reported the lake level was rising but still not flowing out at the outlet.
 - ii. Sturgeon-Noah reported for Bill. The lake level was rising with the recent rains. The state has been making improvements to the public access. There were very few ice houses on the lake this winter.
 - iii. Island- Chip reported that the ice went out before the middle of March which was the earliest that anyone could remember.
 - iv. Smaller Lakes-Laurie reported that she got a six feet Secchi reading with a water temperature of 46 on Passenger April 19th.
 - b. AIS Loren reviewed the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil last summer. He has grants in place from the state and county to cover up to \$40000 in costs for 2024. He is working with Rich Rezanka on using biocontrol on purple loosestrife. Rich will be discussing the subject at the June general meeting. This summer will be a time to survey the township for the location of the invasive plant. Lastly he introduced a program to survey our lakes for Spiny Water Fleas(SWF). It would involve purchasing about \$500 of equipment which would include a special collection net. The three big lakes would be sampled for SWF at least once each summer in the three deepest spots. It was moved by Chip and seconded by Dan to spend up to \$500 for equipment. APPROVED. Chip, Jerry and Noah volunteered to do the sampling and Loren will discuss with Pine County reimbursement for the cost from county AIS funds.
 - c. Road Pick-up Kathy was absent but the Spring Newsletter requested more volunteers for road pickup.
 - d. Newsletter-Laurie asked again for someone to volunteer to do the newsletter.
 - e. Brush-Bill stated the township has not opened the gravel pit for brush and leaves. The burning of all the wood last winter left the area muddy. He is hopeful that it will be open on May 18th and the township will be requiring that people dumping at the pit show that they own property in the township.
 - f. Website-No report.
- VII. Old Business
 - a. 501(c)(3) Status- Noah has some unresolved issues about taxes and has not filed the paperwork with the IRS. He hopes to have his issues resolved in the next couple of weeks.
 - b. Sturgeon Lake High Water Update- Noah reported for Bill. Last Fall the engineering company issued a report with five options using three different routes to create an outflow from the

Windemere Township Lakes Association Board Meeting Minutes Saturday May 4, 2024

lake. The township, DNR and lakes association did a site visit in the Fall. Subsequently the DNR issued a report with several concerns about the options. Even if the DNR's concerns could be resolved the high-water solutions will cost between three and five million dollars. The high-water levels have come down. It was the consensus of the board that the lakes association has taken the issue as far as it can. A possible solution is for the property owners on the lake to form a lake Improvement district to raise funds for the project.

- c. WTLA Member Signs-John showed the members the completed signs. An article about them is in the Spring newsletter. The 2024 membership form has a section where members can indicate whether they want to install the sign or have the lake association do it for them. Dan, Chip and John volunteered to do the installations. David Murphy will purchase the necessary hardware to install them on the address posts.
 - d. Presenters for the 2024 General Meetings-Noah stated that Rich Rezanka will be the speaker for June and Mara Jade from Pine County SWCD for July. There were several suggestions for August including the new local DNR conservation officer.
 - e. Business Sponsorships- John met with Noah about increasing the number of business sponsors. It was moved by Dan and seconded by Noah to have Image Design create a decal to identify WTLA Business Sponsors that can be displayed by the business. APPROVED
- X. New Business
- a. Dues for 2025 were discussed and approved to remain the same: \$25 for membership and \$100 for business sponsors. Motion by Dan second by Laurie APPROVED 7 Ayes, 1 Nay.
 - b. Pine County COLA Meeting-No report
 - c. General Meeting Space-Noah addressed a new issue concerning meeting space. A number of building owners now require that we purchase liability insurance to use the meeting space. Dan reported that our local insurance agent had difficulty in getting a policy for us. Eventually she got coverage for us for the July and August meetings at Holy Angels for a cost of \$175. Noah is searching for an alternative meeting space.
 - d. WTLA Assets-Chip discussed keeping track of items owned by the lakes association. There was a consensus that we should develop a method. Laurie will send out an email requesting information on items valued over \$100.
- XI. Adjournment
- It was moved by Chip and seconded by John to adjourn. APPROVED

Chip Wells, Secretary 5/5/2024