

## **FTLPOA Board Meeting**

**April 2, 2017**

### **10 AM Scandia Valley Town Hall**

**Board Members:** Scott Schnuckle-President, Mike Flanagan-Vice President, Gary Ziehmann-Treasurer, Peg Hartung, Ron Markfelder, Chuck Salter, Brian Sams, Dennis Smith and Mary Thibert-Secretary.

**Absent Board Members:** Jon-Scott Johnson, Ron Mash, Paul Baker and Peggy Swalm.

**Visitors:** Joel, Cindy and Mark Racchini, Chris Ziehmann and David Thibert.

1. **Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association (FTLPOA) fall board meeting were submitted by Mary Thibert. Gary Ziehmann motioned to accept the minutes. Brian Sams seconded it. Motion carried.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Gary Ziehmann submitted the Treasurer's report. Gary informed the board that he changed the treasurer's report format to make it easier to read. As of 3/31/17 the checking account has the balance of \$11,669.07. Expenses year to date have been \$56.75 for supplies and postage. The Endowment Fund Savings Account balance as of 3/31/17 is \$201.55 after deposits of \$260 and a withdrawal of \$700.00. The total balance of all accounts is \$11,870.62. Current membership for 2017 is 67 paid to date. There were 197 paid members in 2016. There is a new membership application form on a PDF on the website which includes the definition what a Membership and Associate Membership entails. Currently there are 4 associate members and one lifetime member. Gary requested approval of the annual payment of \$250 to the Newsletter Editor, \$250 to the Secretary, \$300 to the Treasurer and to pay up to \$500 for beaver control, and up to \$300 for water quality testing reimbursement. Scott Schnuckle motioned to approve these expenses. Mike Flanagan seconded it. The motion carried. Gary Ziehmann and Mary Thibert abstained from the vote.
3. **Old Business:**
  - a. **County Variances:** Mike Flanagan reported on several new variance requests and also provided an update on granted variances. Sweet Water Resort has requested a variance to expand a house which they recently purchased southwest of their property. A couple on Buzzard's Roost requested a variance to enclose an existing structure on their house which is on the lakeside. A variance was granted on Lincoln Hill Drive to build a new garage on the Cul de Sac contingent on the

approval of Scandia Valley Township (SVT) (due to snow removal concerns). Mike Flanagan reported that Kevin Mauer lost his bid for reelection as a MC County Commissioner to Mike LeMieur last fall. Jeff Hardy and Brian Pantzke were elected to SVT Board.

- b. **Aquatic Invasive Species Update and Plans:** There are 4 different entities which are working together to protect the water quality to FTL and to three other area lakes. They include FTLPOA, The Lake Improvement District (LID), QUAD Lake Association (QLA) and FTLPOA Endowment Fund with the IFEF. In the spring newsletter Chuck Salter will define each entity and their role. These definitions will also be posted on the website. It was mentioned that the assessments on PO's property taxes is for the (LID) and does not go to FTLPOA. There are no membership fees for QLA. QLA received a \$25,000 grant last year to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) which was used for signage at each lake accesses. Chuck Salter reported the signage is not exactly what the group wanted. They wanted the signage to be larger and more visible using the colors of green, red and yellow. QLA plans to continue to work with the DNR to improve the signage because the DNR controls what signage is posted at the accesses. QLA applied for another grant this year and received \$5000. QLA plans to work closely with Morrison County (MC) and the DNR to prevent the spread of AIS. FTL has been chosen by MC for a pilot project for watercraft inspection at the public access. Adolf Robby-President of QLA is also focusing on FTL's public landing because of our zebra mussel (ZM), infestation. The QLA does not want ZM to spread to other lakes in the area. MC and the QLA are using some of their funding to provide additional DNR inspectors at FTL's public access. MC also plans to educate private inspectors. DNR inspectors can enforce the rules and issue fines while private inspectors only have the authority to check boats and refer violators to law enforcement. Because MC will be supervising this project MC will be responsible for any liability. This project will be effective this summer. The LID is responsible for plant life. The LID has \$11,000 to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). They received only a \$500 grant this year. This is the lowest amount ever awarded to the LID. Last year 28 acres of CLP were treated. Several PO's have complained about the weeds at the public access. They would like this area treated for CLP. The DNR controls where and how many acres

- of CLP can be treated each year. The LID is working with the DNR and informing them of PO's concerns.
- c. Railroad Updates:** Paul Baker was unable to attend the meeting. However, Gary Ziehmman reported that SVT has approved the closure of the Lincoln Rail Road crossing but there is no scheduled closing date because MC and BNSF railroad continue to negotiate on the Veteran's Trail. There has been a decrease in the number of trains because of the decreased demand for coal and the increase in the Bakken oil pipeline production. Because of this Burlington Northern has tabled the addition of the 2<sup>nd</sup> track.
- d. Water Quality and Water Study Updates:** Last year Blue Water Science (BWS) analyzed FTL's water quality. The analysis can be viewed on FTL's website. FTLPOA board asked BWS to analyze the flowage of water into FTL. It was determined that that FTL receives water from many sources and all the sources analyzed showed the water quality coming into the lake was good. The ice went out on FTL early this year, April 2, 2017. It was 12 days ahead of the average. Last year the ice went out 4 days earlier than this year.
- e. Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund (IFEFF):** Gary Ziehmman reported there has been \$260.00 of contributions to the IFEFF this year. There is approximately \$3000 to \$3500 in contributions each year. Since inception the cumulative contributions to the IFEFF is \$21,965.00. The current value of the IFEFF is \$34,662.08. The IFEFF places the money into a Managed Investment Account, which is currently with Bremer Bank and FTLPOA is charged a small management fee by The Initiative Foundation. FTLPOA can withdraw 5% in any calendar year by submitting a simple grant request. If FTLPOA wants to withdraw monies from the initial grant it would have to submit a very detailed report of how the money would be used. The goal of the IFEFF is to maintain the ecosystem on FTL. All FTLPO who contribute to the fund will be recognized in the newsletter.
- f. Newsletter/Website:** Chris and Gary Ziehmman reported that FTL's web site had 2106 hits in October. There were even hits from Russia and China. In 2016 30% of the website's hits were from mobile phones or handheld devices. Chris believes that the website is not user friendly, mobile phone friendly and it is difficult to update. She proposed a change to a newer usable website platform. The new site vendor would

still be April Powell. Chris proposed to change to headers and have no drop down boxes. There would be more attention to the advertisers and links on each page for more information. The website would also adapt to whatever mobile device is used. These changes would cost \$1950.00. Scott Schnuckle motioned to accept this proposal. Peg Hartung seconded it. The motion carried.

**g. Beaver Dams:** Brian Sams reported that there are no beaver dams that are causing an obstruction of water flow. There is a huge lodge on FTL Creek by the old Highway 10. But because it is not causing an obstruction the DNR will not let Brian remove it. Brian believes the beaver population is up because fewer people are trapping beavers but the number of dams has decreased. There is the potential for more dams to be made and Brian will continue to look for new dams.

**h. Board Duties and Responsibilities:** Board duties for the coming year were reviewed. Some of Chuck Salter's prior duties' have been reassigned.

#### **4. New Business:**

**a. Walleye Stocking:** Mike Flanagan reported that the DNR keeps decreasing the amount of walleye fry to FTL each year. Last year FTL received 5lbs of fry. Eric from the DNR told Mike that they plan to cut back the stocking to all 3 lakes in this area because they have to allocate the fry to where it is needed most. There are approximately 1 million fry per pound. Many fry don't survive because larger fish eat them. Lake Alexander receives fry and fingerlings. FTL will only receive fry and less than Lake Alexander. FTLPOA could stock FTL but it requires a permit. Brian and Mike will speak with Eric about increasing the stocking number. They will also invite him to the Annual meeting in June.

**b. Date and Plans for Annual Meeting:** The FTL's Annual Meeting will be Saturday 6/10/17 at 9:30 am at Scandia Valley Township. The LID will meet at 9 am prior to the annual meeting. Gary Ziehmman will invite MC Commissioners, Jeffrey Jelinski, Duane Johnson, Mike Wilson, Randy Winscher and Mike LeMieur, Sheriff, Shawn Larson, Planning and Zoning, Amy Kowalzek and Soil and Water Conservation, Helen McLennan. Scott Schnuckle will invite US Representative Ron Kresha, Senator Gezelka and BWS, Steve McComas. Gary Ziehmman plans to track the number of FTLPO members and guests who attend the annual meeting.

**c. Adjournment:** Mike Flanagan made a motion to end the meeting. Gary Ziehmman seconded it. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by  
Mary B Thibert