

Minutes of the FTLPOA Annual Meeting

June 21, 2014 9:00 AM
Scandia Valley Township Hall

Meeting convened at 9:25 AM (LID meeting held from (9 AM until 9:22)

Board members present: Chuck Salter, president; Scott Schnuckle, vice president; George Heroux, treasurer; Paul Baker; Peg Hartung; Jim Licari; Ron Mash; Brian Sams; Peggy Swalm; David Thibert; Mary Thibert and Mike Flanagan

Guest Presentations

Chad Hadler: Chad represented Lake Restoration, the new company treating our lake for curly leaf pond weed. He discussed the schedule of activities and the approximately 4 acres identified by the state to be treated. The lake was treated in late May.

Ron Kresha: Ron introduced Stuart Mills, the Republican candidate for the US House of Representatives, who made a short speech. Ron then presented his three main issues this year: Aquatic Evasive Species, Property Owners Rights and Trains.

On the subject of trains he is concerned about the increased speed on the tracks in our area if the crossing is closed. He said there are many supporters on both sides of this crossing topic. He also stated that he was willing to meet at a later date with our association and showed a willingness to consider the alternative perspective that the crossing increases the risk of derailment and is an environmental risk to our lake.

Shawn Larsen: Shawn is a deputy chief for Morrison County Sheriff's Department. He gave a brief bio of himself. Today he is third in command at the department and the top two are both retiring. He is running to fill the sheriff's position in the fall. He did a review of the area criminal reports for our lake from May 2013 through May 2014. There were only four reported crimes, all very small in nature. He stated the water theft activity reported over the past several years seems to have ceased.

Kevin Maurer: Kevin is our County Commissioner. He shared that he had met with the sheriff regarding our request for a "No Wake Zone" for the entire lake. He also said that there would be a meeting the following Tuesday at the Government

Center at 8:30 with the commission; Helen McClellan, Soil & Water; and the sheriff's department to discuss this request. We were welcome and encouraged to attend. He did suggest that any individual property owner contact Helen and she would visit their property and offer solutions to their individual shoreline erosion. He also stated that the current "No Wake Zone" of 150 feet set by the state is a rule and is not enforceable.

Chuck offered a show of hands from the board and property owner attendees that would like a 600 foot "No Wake Zone" approved for the lake immediately. The vote was unanimous in favor of the no wake zone.

Kevin also shared that the county receives \$58,000 for evasive species control and that it must be spread amongst all county waterways.

On the topic of lake shore ordinances, Kevin stated that the law has been inconsistently enforced and he urged owners to call the county as soon as they see any potential inappropriate activity taking place on a shoreline area of any property. Scott shared of FTLPOA Board's concern about the current ordinance. He stated that the four lakes in the township will be meeting to discuss their concerns and potential ideas around modifying the law, including monitoring and enforcement. They will then be presenting them to the county board.

On the topic of the railroad crossing, Kevin shared his desire for the township and/or the fire department to modify their position before he would reconsider discussing it with the county board. Paul stated that our position is a work in progress but our increased concern for environmental safety is quickly growing. Moving the fire hydrant to the west side of the tracks is one piece and the BNSF railroad stated that they would contribute money toward this activity. There was much discussion around the level of traffic increasing on the tracks and the overall safety of the area, based on recent rail accidents involving trains containing oil and other elements of the activities taking place in North Dakota.

Kevin gave a brief update on the use and promotion of the island owned by the Sams. He stated the county's position on not rezoning it to commercial use. He also shared the county's most recent discussion with Brian and his wife. They have since removed the island rental opportunity from all printed and electronic materials available regarding the resort. Kevin stated that, in Minnesota, any individual can rent out a property, as long as they have filed it according to state and local requirements.

Kevin was asked if he knew the outcome of the hearings and meetings with the DNR regarding opening up Lake Alexander Woods SNA to additional activities, including hunting. He had heard nothing. We will follow up with Jeff Halvorson, our county Conservation Officer.

Jason Borash: Jason is the Deputy Sheriff of Boat and Water Patrol for Morrison County. He reiterated that their hands are tied on what they can do regarding those creating wakes on our lakes. He has addressed several boaters in the recent weeks and asked that they respect the request. There is a sign posted at the public boat landing reminding boats of the “No Wake” direction.

There is a state law that does forbid jet skis from creating a wake within 150 feet of the lake shore. The county has added new buoys to the public landing area reminding them of the “No wake” enforcement.

Glen Erickson: Glen is our county Assessor. He handed out the map identifying all publicly sold properties on Fish Trap in 2013. He stated that the properties on Fish Trap were generally lowered about \$5,000 in 2014, while those on lakes Alexander and Shamineau stayed relatively the same as 2013.

Secretary Report: Jim Licari moved and Mary Thibert seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Spring 2014 meeting of the Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association (Association). The motion carried.

Financial Report: George Heroux prepared and passed on for presentation, the financial report period June 21, 2013 to June 20, 2014. He shared that the Endowment Fund currently has about \$26,000 of working investment and we have another \$1,889 in our account to invest. We continue to receive contributions from our community. After a brief discussion the president received and filed the report.

Old Business

- a) DNR Grant – We were notified that our state grant to treat curly-leaf in 2014 would be \$7,032. Once the DNR identified the minimal four acre amount of curly-leaf pondweed that would be treated, the grant was reduced to \$1,000.
- b) Curly-leaf Pondweed Treatment – Refer to the meeting notes from the LID and the presentation summary from Lake Restoration earlier in the meeting minutes.
- c) Septic System Inspection – The inspections have begun. They were started later than expected due to the wet spring. There have been no big issues to date. Several systems have been tagged as “failed.” Check our association

web site for general inspection updates. Call the county with any questions you might have regarding your inspection date and/or results.

- d) Lakes Shore Development – This was covered during the discussion with Kevin Maurer with summary notes posted earlier in this set of minutes.
- e) Water quality update – Jim Fogelberg and his team will continue to conduct our water studies for the DNR. The ice went out April 28th, last year's date was May 13th. The water clarity was 9.5 feet on May 5th; 11 feet on May 20th; 15.5 feet on June 4th and 22 feet on June 17th. Our TSI reading has been consistently in the high 40's for the last three years. These results are posted in our lake files on the DNR web site. We thank him and his team for their continued dedication to this important activity, testing for water clarity and chlorophyll and phosphorous levels.
- f) High Water Levels – Brian shared that there are currently no dams downstream from the lake. He had dismantled several smaller ones earlier. The water is at an all-time high but will remain so as long as the area streams and rivers remain at their current high levels.
- g) Endowment Initiative – With the value approaching \$28,000, it is time to put the money to work. Scott has agreed to head a committee to determine annual spending allocations and projects. The motion was made to create a standing committee of five volunteers, including non-board members. Scott made the motion and Mike seconded. The association approved. Scott agreed to head the committee. The other volunteers include David Thibert, Mike Flanagan, Julie Novak and Dave Ellering. Peg made the motion to accept the five volunteers and Brian seconded, the association approved. Several ideas were discussed. The committee will begin meeting in the fall and present a plan to the board for a project to take place in 2015.
- h) Train safety – Paul Baker continues to head the team on working with the railroad and county on closing the crossing. Most of the discussion occurred during Kevin Maurer's presentation (in earlier meeting minutes).
- i) Web site update – Mike presented the current usage numbers for the web site which are approximately 250 visits per month during the winter months. There are generally 250 visitors to our site during the winter months. About 2/3 are first timers for that month, the remainder are returnees looking for any new updates. It was decided that we add local businesses to a page of our site and feature them in our Home page. These spaces will be sold. We will continue to update all appropriate pages as new updated information is available.

New Business

- a) Trash disposal test – Mike presented an idea to establish a site for our dues paying association members to dispose of their trash over the weekends. This would enable them to head home without having to bring trash with them. Much discussion took place. Several in attendance reminded the group that many members are already paying for some form of rubbish removal. There is not a current opportunity to leave recyclables for pick up. The township landfill does take all forms for a small fee. All in attendance voted on a motion to test a rubbish disposal site in 2015. It was approved by a vote of 17 to 10 to continue with discussion and develop a plan for 2015. Additional information will be posted on the web site when available.
- b) Election of board members – The terms of Chuck Salter, David Thibert, Mary Thibert and Brian Sams are up at the end of June. All offered to stay for another term. There were no other people present that were willing to serve on the board. The association approved acceptance of these four to another term.
- c) Region wide meeting of lake associations – Chuck attended the first meeting of the Morrison county lake associations. More meetings are being scheduled. More information to follow.
- d) Fourth of July Boat Parade – It will begin at noon on the 4th at the campground area. Ron Nypan will start the parade and remind all of the importance of no wake.

Thank you Campfire Bay Resort and Hilltop Sports for the door prizes.

In celebration of the associations 40 (plus one) years, the board had ordered a special cake in addition to our traditional post meeting lunch.

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Our fall board meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2014 at 9:30 AM

Board Meeting

Following the association meeting, the board met briefly and re-elected Chuck Salter as president, Scott Schnuckle as vice-president, George Heroux as treasurer and Mary Thibert as secretary. David and Mary Thibert volunteered to represent the board and the next meeting of our four township lakes on June 27.