

FTLPOA Annual Meeting
June 22, 2019
9:30 am Scandia Valley Town Hall

Board Members Present: Scott Schnuckle, President, Mike Flanagan, Vice President, Gary Ziehmman, Treasurer, Paul Baker, Ron Mash, Chuck Salter, Lisa Kajer, Brian Sams, Ron Markfelder, Denny Smith, Jon Scott Johnson, Ron Mash and Mary Thibert-Secretary.

Scott Schnuckle called the meeting to order. Board members were introduced.

Secretary's Report: Mary Thibert submitted minutes from the Spring Board Meeting. Mike motioned the minutes be accepted. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. For the period from 1/1/18-12/31/18 the total balance from all accounts was \$14,460.95. For the period from 1/1/19-6/21/19 total balance of all accounts is \$16,021.80. Current year contributions to the Initiative Foundation Fish Trap Lake Endowment Fund is \$1,550.00. Cumulative transfers to the Endowment Fund since inception is \$30,695.00. The current value of the Endowment Fund is \$43,961.37. Total membership for the Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association (FTLPOA) for 2018 was 213 or 65%. 2017 membership totaled 212. Currently for 2019 there are 170 members. There are 329 Property Owners (PO). The Treasurer's report was accepted by the board.

Updates from visiting Government Representatives:

A. Sheriff's Department: Sheriff Deputy Daniel Daert stated the main goal of the sheriff's department was for safety and that they have a presence in the community. The water table is high and boaters need to propel their boats at lower speeds to reduce the risk of damage to the shoreline. A no wake zone of 300 ft from the shoreline will be posted at the access site. However, this posting is not a county law and it can't be enforced. It is posted as a courtesy for property owners. Some POs expressed concern about wake that wake boats produce. Deputy Daert stated it is a fine balance to regulate fun and waves. He suggested large boats to boat in the middle of the lake. The sheriff's department plans to have a presence on Fish Trap. POs were told there are no crime issues to be reported.

B. County Departments: Jean Popp Morrison County (MC) Assessor reported property values throughout the county are stable. Property values on lake cabins are also remaining stable. Her department reviews each property in MC every 5 years. Next year Scandia Valley Township properties will be reviewed. Amy Kowalzek, MC Director of Land and Services, stated that the County is working with the DNR to rewrite the Shoreline Ordinance. MC is also looking at the ordinances for resorts and campground docking space. It is involving the LID to help set the standards. Galen Guber, is involved with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) projects. He is sampling the areas lakes for AIS. He has added spiny water fleas to the sampling list. Mille Lac is the closet lake to Fish Trap which has spiny water fleas. He is also monitoring the zebra mussel veliger's density levels. Scott asked Amy if MC is considering an ordinance for no wakes because the water level is so high. There is no ordinance regarding this. Surface water ordinances only deals with dock placements. Scott asked FTLPO if they were concerned about the wakes. This was not a big concern among the POs. It was suggested that water skiers stay 75 ft away from the shoreline. When developing ordinances, the County board also considers whether other lakes in the area are having the same issues. The picture project has been completed. Last summer an intern took pictures of everyone's property from the lake side. The Board of Adjustments will look at these photos when deciding on variances or violations. Amy's department relies on POs to tell them what is going on. All septic systems on FTL are in compliance.

C. DNR Fisheries: Eric Altena has over 30 years of experience and has been surveying and stocking FTL for many years. When stocking a lake the DNR looks at the survival rate of the fish, which is determined by their surveys. They like to stock a lake with fry over fingerlings because they are less expensive. The amount of fry stocked varies year to year. Last year FTL was stocked with 600,000 fry. This year 1.2 million fry were stocked. The DNR hopes for a 1 to 2 % survival rate for fry. In 2011 the fingerlings had the greatest survival rate. The survival rate has been decreasing every year since. Because there was a low survival rate this year an additional 400 lbs of fingerlings were stocked. According to the DNR's fish survey there are a lot of Northern Pike in the lake and they need to be removed. Eric suggested not releasing any northern caught that is less than 24 inches. There is a 24-30 inch slot limit of 3 northern and only one northern can be kept if it is over 36 inches. Northern have increased in numbers and the number of perch and walleye have decreased. According to Eric if the northern population is up the walleye will be down. If yellow perch are up the walleye will be up. There are plenty of crappie, bass and sunfish. Male sunfish are more colorful than the females. To increase the size of the sunfish in the lake Eric recommends releasing these colorful males. This doesn't hold true for crappie. But Eric suggested if crappie are greater than 12 inches they should be released. When asked which AIS was the greatest threat to FTL, Eric believes it is stony star wart over spiny water fleas. You don't want either, but in his opinion stony star wart is worse because of the thick vegetation mats it causes. It is usually found by boat accesses. It does not float around. Those clouds of green blobs is filamous algae. Because the zebra mussels have made the water clearer it encourages this type of algae growth. The chances of having blue green algae also increases with zebra mussels. Eric was asked if fishing tournaments need a permit to fish on the lake.

Yes, but league fishing clubs do not need a permit if there are less than 25 boats. The DNR has guidelines regarding surface water use but only the Sheriff can limit the surface water use. Any surface water event may require a permit.

Old Business:

A. Aquatic Invasive Species Update and Plans: MC and the DNR provided QUAD lakes association with a grant divided between all 4 lake improvement districts (LIDs) FTL, Alexander, Shamineau and Crookneck. FTL's LID received \$3438 for the two AIS vegetation surveys and \$3655 for AIS management. The signage project at the access has been completed and the Initiative Fund paid for it. FTLPOA applied for a grant this past winter to obtain a CD3 Cleaning Station for boaters to drain their boats and clean off weeds when exiting or entering FTL. FTL did not receive this grant. The board later received a call from the County indicating it was considering purchase of a CD3 Cleaning Station for FTL if FTLPOA agreed to be responsible for its maintenance which would entail cleaning the vacuum 1 to 2 times a year and any tool replacement. The annual cost would be approximately \$400. FTLPOA could apply for a grant to cover this expense or use endowment fund monies. The FTLPOA board did not want to commit to this arrangement without approval from the association members, choosing to wait for the annual meeting. The Association membership present did vote in favor of the arrangement. However, Amy Kowalzek stated because the board did not accept MC's proposal this spring the CD3 Cleaning Station would have to be readdressed next year.

B. Railroad Crossing Closure Update: Paul Baker gave a synopsis of the past 7 years. Because most accidents occur at railroad crossings the FTLPOA want the Lincoln crossing closed. If there is a derailment and explosion in this area 2/3 of FTL is in the kill zone. Initially, in order to close the crossing, there was a need for a water pumping station for fire trucks. The railroad agreed to fund one. Then, MC wanted a public park project. Railroad said ok. Next, MC wanted a 25-year easement for the trail. Railroad agreed. Then MC said 25 years was not long enough and wanted 50 years which railroad agreed. Now MC wants the railroad to be liable for the trail which the railroad won't agree to. Several board members are going to try to get this issue back on MC's board agenda so it will be addressed.

C. Initiative Foundation Endowment: People continue to donate to this fund. FTLPOA board continues to look for ideas/projects to use the funding.

D. Website/Newsletter: Chris Ziehmman manages the website, accessible by mobile phone or computer. She welcomes receiving any information regarding FTL. The website is <fishtraplake.com>. She publishes a Spring newsletter mailed to all POs and a Fall newsletter mailed only to paid association members.

E. Lake Shamineau Update: Amy Kowalzek stated 3 groups are working on the high-water problem. Their LID's Order of Establishment must be revised to allow the LID's involvement. A public hearing for this will be in July. Shamineau's property owners annual meeting will be held in August.

New Business

A. Review of the proposed bi-laws: At times it is difficult for the FTLPOA board to meet in person because of poor weather conditions. The bi-laws did not allow board members to meet or vote by teleconference. The bi-laws needed to be amended to allow for a teleconference meeting. The Bi-laws were amended to allow for this but still require one person to be present at the original meeting place during the teleconference to allow for public access to the meeting.

B. High water level and no wake opportunities: The water level on FTL is high. Brian Sams reported there were 3 beaver dams and a large tree had fallen into Fish Trap Creek which needs to be removed. Trappers have been trapping the beavers. Because they appear to like building dams on a pipeline dynamite cannot be used to remove them. There are also a lot of cattails present. At one time a person was able to canoe the creek but now it is too narrow. He suggested FTLPOA needs to hire someone to remove the cattails. The association could probably use the endowment funds to cover the costs.

C. Donations to Scandia Valley Fire and Rescue: Following the death of 2 FTLPOs this winter who fell through the ice, Gary Ziehmman became aware that the SVFR could use more water/ice rescue equipment. He proposed FTLPOA make a onetime donation of \$1000 to SVFR for equipment. Lucy Thomas moved to raise the donation to \$2000. Mike Flanagan seconded the motion. Paul Baker moved to amend the motion to also include a \$250 annual donation. Lisa Kajer seconded the amended motion. The amended motion carried.

D. Fill Board positions for those retiring and vacant seats: Mike Flanagan, Ron Mash and Peg Hartung have resigned from their positions on the board. The following individuals were nominated to join the board: Marie Hillard, Ron Nypan and Doug Copley. Check Salter motioned to accept the nominations, Lisa Kajer seconded the motion and the motion carried.

E. Set date for fall board meeting: There will be a fall board meeting in September. Scott Schnuckle told the FTLPOA, Peg Hartung prepared the lunch which follows the meeting and thanked her for doing so. Scott then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary B Thibert