

Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was held on November 19, 2016 at Corinna Town Hall. It began at 9:02 AM and was presided over by Sally Quinn Phenow, with Andrea Welter as secretary.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance: Robin Fox (left at 9:58 AM), Suzanne McDonald, Sally Quinn Phenow, Robert Strom, Paul Gustafson, Don Peterson, Marsha Shrupp, Keith Theisen, Gary Borrell (left at 10:30 AM), Sheldon Brown, Ron Elsner, Larry Jude, Andrea Welter. Sue Mann (arrived at 9:10).

Guests in attendance included Darwin Hoffman and Jim Bidwell

Members not in attendance: Todd Latterell, Doug Miller, Kathy Suddendorf, Dan Erdmann.

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous October 15, 2016 meeting was made by M. Shrupp and seconded by S. Brown.

Officers' Reports

A. Treasurer's report was presented by T. Latterell via S. Phenow's speaker phone.

R. Elsner summarized

Questions about the deficit. This is due to the monies for the big ditch that will be partially reimbursed by a grant.

\$5,000 from the county still has not come through. It is usually paid out at the end of the calendar year.

The increase cost for invasive species is due to the landing monitoring. The DNR used to provide man power and matching funds, but they are unable to any more.

Extensive discussion led by G. Borrell about the importance to education SLA members about the high cost to treat invasive species, and that we are actually underfunded if/when we are hit. It is imperative to treat immediately to be effective. Dale Gustafson concurred and explained that it multiplies exponentially, so you can't wait until it's discovered, and then try to raise enough money for 3 years and then treat. By that time it will be far too late.

D. Peterson asked that the treasurer prepare a monthly financial report for each month that includes a P & L balance sheet for the future meetings, and retro year to date thru November 2016. T. Latterell stated that he would complete this the following weekend after his return.

Motion: Moved by Paul Gustafson and seconded by Don Peterson (with minor changes) to accept the treasurer's report.

The motion carried.

B. Membership Report was presented by Sue Mann.

Don Peterson will take the lead on managing the database, but will add multiple users/access

Contact person will be Kathy Suddendorf, who will handle the checks.

The committee will make sure that someone will attend the monthly meeting and report.

Discussion focused on expanding membership, and ways to add new members, as well as determining who we have lost. Don will run reports to try to create a list.

S. Mann suggested that instead of whole lake events, we try small gatherings which may feel more personal and less intimidating.

Also suggested we contact new property owners, and welcome back existing ones in some way.

Discussed the ideas of a door to door campaign, or hosting a "Sugar Lake Night Out" event like the metro areas do.

Discussed the pros and cons of again listing contributors in the newsletter.

R. Elsner asked if they had looked into the option of electronic payments. He believes this convenience might help.

R. Elsner stated he will again help solicit the purchase of advertising from the businesses on the Chamber of Commerce sites in Maple Lake and Annandale for placement in the SLA directory.

Other Reports

A. Water Quality Report

Dan Erdmann not in attendance, and there is no information to report, as the boat that he uses to collect the data is out of the water for the season.

Paul Gustafson shared photos and information on his efforts with the carp barrier. The door is open.

It was cleaned 109 times this year. It must be checked daily according to the terms of the permit.

Motion: Moved by Keith Theisen and seconded by Robert Strom directing the SLA to apply for a carp barrier permit for 2017 from the DNR, which includes an application fee of \$2000. The motion carried.

Dale Gustafson stated that a watershed report will come out by the end of the year. Emphasis is on microwater sheds. Requests that the group meet with neighbors and walk properties to identify and correct any potential problem areas.

Shared that the "Big Ditch II" project (Hollister Ave) went rapidly and was completed in about 8 days. It includes two burms to slow down runoff and allows areas for it to soak into the ground before reaching the lake. This area has been an issue for over 30 years. The first part of this project involved clearing over 600 trees and planting grasses. Brent Jude has been presiding over this and has been invaluable in its implementation.

B. Lake Vegetation presented by Dale Gustafson

Permits will be filed after January 1, 2017. The amount of Eurasian Water Milfoil has decreased, but Dale anticipates it will be in different places this summer, as it is impossible to predict their cycles.

C. Newsletter (Don Peterson)

No newsletter

D. Unfinished Business

-Brainstorming of fundraising ideas, which included a membership drive, silent auction and/or live auction at the annual picnic?, sweatshirt sales and additional apparel, ice fishing contest, increases support of the golf tournament

-Winter Meeting (April 29th) Ideas:

Lunch and learn format, with invasive species as the topic. Dale will find out the availability and cost to present. Will talk to reps from Lake Sylvia and Lake Koronis (who have been infected with IS recently). Considering a 11:30-1:00 open house timeframe, with a presentation at 12:30. R. Elsner and S. McDonald volunteered to plan, with Dale securing a speaker.

-Ron Elsner requested that going forward, the group look at and update the Lake Management Plan. He proposed working on it section by section, as it is very outdated.

Adjournment

Keith Theisen moved that the meeting be adjourned, and seconded by Sue Mann. This was agreed upon at 11:12 AM.

SECRETARY APPROVAL: Andrea M. Welter

Sugar Lake Association

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