

Waupaca Chain O'Lakes Association Meeting
June 25, 2022
Camp Cleghorn Chapel, Waupaca, WI

Quorum: A quorum was present and all participated in the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bob Underberg.

Welcome: President Sharon Peterson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., welcomed all present and recognized John Miller and Caroline Murphy as chairs of Farmington and Dayton townships. Ms. Peterson also recognized Lake District Board members Fred Silloway, Paul Mazzoleni, and Caroline Murphy as well as Jim Larson from the Chain 'O Lakes Sanitary District. She introduced the Board Members and also recognized Nancy Hetzer as a new neighborhood chair.

Approval of the June 21, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Bob Underberg and seconded by Lorraine Koeper. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report, Annual Audit, 2021-2022 Budget: Susan Gaastra presented the Treasurer's report indicating that the Association budget is in an excellent condition. She reported that the Association brought in receipts of \$25,771.52 in revenue. Ms. Gaastra said that expenses of \$15,627.53 for the fiscal year were on budget. Ms. Gaastra explained the plan to move money out of the Association's checking account and into two CDs which are still being researched in order to attain the best interest rate. She reported that Jed DeYoung had audited the Association's books and found them to be in good standing. Ms. Gaastra presented the proposed budget for 2022-2023. A motion was made by Dave Shambeau to approve the 2022-2023 budget and was seconded by Tom Kurz. The budget was approved.

Executive Secretary's Report and Election of Directors: Peggy Jesion stated that there were 630 current members of the Association of the approximately 850 properties. She expressed appreciation for the neighborhood chairs and the work they do to distribute Who's Hoo directories as well as inform new residents about the Association. Ms. Jesion recognized John Hebring for his work on the residence signs. She gave examples of how the Association had partnered with local organizations and government to provide information so that helped to make good decisions regarding the health of the Chain.

Ms. Jesion reported that the Association's Board had nominated Susan Gaastra and Phil Peterson as Directors for terms ending in 2025. She said that John Miller was vacating his position on the Board and the Board has nominated Julie Mazzoleni to fill that vacancy. A show of hands indicated a majority approved election of the nominees.

Water Safety Patrol Report: Deputy Steve Kincaid of the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department presented information on the status of the Water Patrol and that the primary focus is safety as opposed to writing a lot of tickets. He said that in May there were 21.5 patrol hours during which 5 citations were issued, 15 safety checks and one written warning. Deputy Kincaid said that thus far in June, there have been 119 patrol hours during which 15 citations, 9 written warnings, and 32 safety compliance checks. A member asked for examples of what constituted a warning versus a citation and Deputy Kincaid gave some examples of a boat going through a no wake lake above speed and he called them over to warn them about heeding the slow, no wake buoys. Deputy Kincaid said many warnings are given to people unfamiliar with the Chain in an attempt to educate the boaters. Another member asked about boats that have excessively loud music and Deputy Kincaid said that DNR rules allow up to 86 decibels and he said that they do have a decimeter in the water patrol boat. He said that the townships can impose noise ordinances to further limit noise. Deputy Kincaid said that it is very important to get boat registration numbers of violators and provide that information so he can contact them to address the issue.

Lake District Board Report and Friends of Hartman Creek: Fred Silloway explained that the Lake District is a governmental body with taxing authority with the main focus being protection and rehabilitation of the lakes. He said that recent focus has been on the identification and treatment of aquatic invasive species, primarily eurasian hybrid milfoil and curly pond leaf. Mr. Silloway said that in his networking with other lake districts and associations, there are two common concerns, one being enhanced wakes causing shoreline erosion and sediment disruptions and the other, lake capacity.

Mr. Silloway said that the Friends of Hartman Creek is a nonprofit organization with a focus to connect people with nature and the focus for the last several months has been Whispering Pines Park. He stated that the organization is removing invasive terrestrial plants and downed timber to increase accessibility. Mr. Silloway said that the next project is expanding the trail system there. He added that they are also working with the Waupaca Historical Society to provide interpretive signs about the history of the park. Mr. Silloway said that they are continuing to raise funds to complete the project.

Dan McFarlane, Waupaca County Land and Water Conservation Department: Mr. McFarlane indicated that several studies have shown that poor shoreline conditions negatively impact water quality and native aquatic species. He said he wants to educate homeowners about the impact of an unhealthy shoreline so that they can choose to incorporate fish sticks, native plantings, runoff diversion, rock infiltration, and rain gardens. Mr. McFarlane said that the recent shoreline assessment follows DNR standards and 799 properties were recently assessed on the lower chain. Mr. McFarlane provided a map of the Chain to members and each property was assessed as to its shoreline health. He said that homeowners who wish to improve their shoreline's health can apply for a Healthy Lakes grant through his office.

Chain Real Estate Update: Joe Udoni stated that in 2021, there were fifteen home sales, five vacant lots, and two condominiums resulting in a record breaking sales year. He added that there were a record six home sales above a million dollars. Mr. Udoni said that average days on the market were about 180 days. He said that as of today, there are two active listings. Mr. Udoni said that there continues to be a lot of demand for homes on the Chain. He noted that there seems to be a lot of interest in upmarket vacation rental homes by investors.

Scholarship Recipient Recognition: Sharon Peterson read a thank you note from Emily Schmidt, the recipient of the Association's scholarship. She said that Ms. Schell will be attending the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point majoring in Conservation Law Enforcement and Wildlife Ecology.

Active Association Projects: Sharon Peterson said that the Association partnered with Bridget O'Brien of Camp Cleghorn for an educational session on invasive terrestrial species. She stated that Lindsay Lewitski is working with Noah Linke on the Association's website to make it more user friendly. Ms. Peterson said that the Association partnered with Chuck Reynolds in neighborhood cleanup which was capped off by a meet and greet at the Casino. She said that Julie Mazzoleni is the Association's representative on the Waupaca Historical Society. Phil Peterson stated that late last month 900 yellow perch fingerlings were released in Taylor and Miner Lakes. He said that the committee has other plans to interest Chain residents in fishing and fish habitat.

Sanitary District Ordinance: Commissioner Jim Larson related that the Chain 'O Lakes Sanitary District had recently implemented a new ordinance effective July 1, 2022 which governs recreational vehicles parked on property. He said that the new ordinance allows recreational vehicles to be used on a property for no more than seven calendar days in a year after having received a permit from the District.

Member Input: Member question about ordinance to create a prohibition on wake surfing. She was directed to her township which has the ability to do so. Another member inquired about enhancing healthy shorelines and she was encouraged to spread the word and contact Dan McFarlane for further assistance. Caroline Murphy said that in order to rent property, owners must get a permit from the county and a rental permit from the township. She said that the proceeds will go to the boat patrol with a hope of getting a new boat in the future. A member questioned whether places renting boats provide information to renters. Ms. Peterson indicated that boater safety and pamphlets are given to each marina. Al Fox reviewed the procedures in place for the Round Lake fireworks scheduled for July 1, 2022 at dusk and expressed his appreciation for the donations and cooperation from Chain residents.

Next Meeting Date: Ms. Peterson announced that was Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at Farmington Town Hall

Ms. Spaar moved and Mr. Underberg seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 a.m. Motion carried.

Rose Spaar
Secretary