

Waupaca Chain O'Lakes Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 7, 2019, 9:00 am
Farmington Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Peterson at 9:00 am.

Present: Board Members Present: Dick Conover, John Hebbring, Lorraine Koeper, John Miller, Carl Nelson, Phil Peterson, Sharon Peterson, and Bob Underberg

Board Members Absent: Susan Gaastra

Guests in attendance: Gerry Murphy and Caroline Murphy (each present for part of the meeting)

Approve or Amend Agenda: Motion made by John Miller and seconded by Carl Nelson. The agenda was approved.

Approve or amend June 22, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Bob Underberg to approve the June 22, 2019 minutes. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Susan Gaastra, Lorraine Koeper presented the Treasurer's report. Income since the beginning of the fiscal year on June 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019 from memberships is \$1,020. Expenses disbursed from June 1st to July 31st equal \$338. Checking account balance as of July 31, 2019 is \$19,606.94. Total funds are \$32,157.69, with \$13,965 of that from 3 and 5-year memberships reserved for future year expenses, so cash available well exceeds the funds needed to meet the current budget so the Association is in sound fiscal condition. The CD in that amount of \$12,550 is due for renewal in August. The Board recommended shopping around for a better rate and authorized Ms. Koeper and/or Ms. Gaastra to invest the funds in another CD of approximately one year.

Executive Secretary's Report: Ms. Koeper reported there are 653 current members, even higher than this time last year so it is a positive that membership participation continues to grow. Ms. Koeper reported receiving positive feedback from the annual meeting and the two email blasts that went out to members following the July storms. She also passed on that dozens of new residents have signed up for the Chain O'Lakes neighborhood on the Next Door app after it was again highlighted in the email blast. Although Next Door is not affiliated with the Association, it should grow into a good resource for members and at least one boat cover was reunited with its owner through this network following the storm. Ms. Koeper renewed the Association's registration as a charitable organization with the Wisconsin Department of Finance in July. Ms. Koeper discussed various emails, phone calls and correspondence received since the annual meeting, including a thank you from Hayden Walkush, this year's Association scholarship recipient.

Lake District Report: Bob Ellis was unable to attend the meeting but he asked Ms. Koeper to encourage Association Board members to attend the upcoming annual meeting of the Lake District on Saturday. Mr. Hebbring reported that the size of the Lake District's budget has increased to over \$100,000 as a result of treatments for invasive species, Eurasian and hybrid water milfoil in particular. Ms. Koeper also reported that she had passed on information to Mr. Ellis that she had received from the Wisconsin Association of Lakes regarding changes being made by the Department of Natural Resources in the process for awarding grants, which could have a potentially significant impact on the Lake District's funding. Mr. Hebbring also reported the project to clear the channel to Youngs Lake has been completed by the Lake District.

Committee Reports:

- a. History Committee: Mr. Underberg reported that the History Committee was unable to successfully coordinate schedules to get a historical boat tour of the Chain off the ground for this summer but will look to getting an event together for summer of 2020.
- b. Safety Committee: Mr. Nelson reported that he believes the Water Patrol continues to have difficulty with sufficient staffing. The Committee discussed having a meeting with the Town Chairpersons and the Sheriff's Department to improve communications, to receive a better understanding of the number

of hours and timing of hours that will be spent on the Chain, and to discuss priorities for the patrol officers.

- c. Sign Committee: Ms. Koeper reported that she and John Hebring had been very busy this summer completing the multi-year replacement project for all of the green arrow signs around the Chain. Mr. Hebring has put most of them in place and also happily reported that none of the signs had been damaged during the storm. Mr. Hebring also stated that an additional 10,000 water safety brochures will need to be printed for next season and has been incorporated into the current budget. Board members will review the brochure for suggested changes prior to printing.
- d. Water Quality/Invasive Species Committee: Phil Peterson reported that Amanda Smith of the DNR had sent out an update that several age classes of zebra mussels had been found in Marl lake and in the channel between Marl and Pope Lakes, bringing the count of infected lakes to 16 of the 22 interconnected Chain lakes. He also reported that the plates put out by Association members to monitor the zebra mussel population had been put out and will be checked in the coming weeks. The date for taking the Farmers for Tomorrow and County representatives out on the Chain had to be postponed again as the farmers are continuing to experience challenging conditions and are now unavailable for the proposed August date. The Board approved Mr. Peterson attending sessions of the Advanced Lake Leaders Institute regarding lake associations and "Land Trusts" and "Producer Conservation Groups."
- e. Zoning Committee: In response to a number of inquiries from Association members, Ms. Peterson asked Caroline Murphy whether the Town of Farmington or Waupaca County Zoning has followed up as to why the required condition to characterize the Wheelhouse off-site parking lot as a non-conforming use in the legal settlement had not been satisfied yet - namely that once the parking lot entrance on County Q was approved, the original parking lot entrance was to have been closed off and a berm and plantings be installed as a buffer between the parking lot and Pleasant Park Lane. Ms. Murphy replied that The Wheelhouse should have completed that by now and she does not know why it has not been done. Upon motion by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Nelson, the Association Board unanimously approved a letter to be sent from the Board to the Zoning Director, with a copy to County Chairman, outlining the concern and asking what steps were being taken to either enforce the terms of the County's settlement in the matter or to enforce the current Zoning Ordinance.

New Business:

- a. Mr. Underberg reported that he had discussions with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the new branding initiative of "Main & Chain." The project is currently being worked on by an outside company. He stated that Terri Schulz, Chamber President, would be interested in meeting with representatives of the Association to discuss the project and he will invite her to the October Board meeting.
- b. John Miller reported conversations with the DNR and Wisconsin Lakes Association regarding monitoring lake levels and suggestions for an education campaign for next season, including possible signage, to make boaters aware when the lake levels are high and what steps should be taken to minimize boat wakes in order to reduce related safety issues and environmental damage from erosion.

There was no member input. Ms. Peterson announced the next Board meeting will be held on October 9th at Dayton Town Hall. Mr. Underberg moved and Mr. Nelson seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 am. Motion carried.

Lorraine Koeper
Acting Secretary