

Waupaca Chain O'Lakes Association
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 2, 2020, 9:00 am
Farmington Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Peterson at 9:03 am.

Present: Board Members Present: Susan Gaastra, Lorraine Koeper (via telephone), John Miller, Carl Nelson, Sharon Peterson, and Bob Underberg
Board Members Absent: Dick Conover, John Hebring, Phil Peterson

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

Approve or amend Board Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Susan Gaastra and seconded by Carl Nelson to approve the October 9, 2019 minutes. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Susan Gaastra presented the Treasurer's report. Income since the beginning of the fiscal year on June 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 from memberships and contributions is \$1,500. Expenses disbursed from June 1st to December 31st equal \$4,184.30. Checking account balance as of December 31, 2019 is \$16,265.64 and the CD is \$12,742. Total funds available are \$29,007.64, with \$14,385 of that from 3 and 5-year memberships reserved for future year expenses, so cash available exceeds the funds needed to meet the current budget so the Association is in sound fiscal condition.

Executive Secretary's Report: Ms. Koeper reported that this is a quiet time of year for memberships in advance of the spring membership drive. Ms. Koeper prepared the Association's Form #1943 required to continue its registration as a charitable organization in Wisconsin and the Association will be renewing its membership to Wisconsin Lakes. Ms. Koeper reported the email to the Chamber of Commerce expressing concerns regarding the new branding, tourism and wayfinding initiative that highlights the Chain O'Lakes and had been discussed at the last Board meeting was sent on October 29, 2019. The email was signed by the Chairs of Dayton and Farmington, Gerald Murphy as the District 14 County Board representative, and the Association's Board of Directors. In addition to detailing safety and environmental concerns, the email also asked for consultation with the signing parties to address these concerns. Ms. Koeper relayed that a very brief reply was received saying the Waupaca Convention and Visitors Bureau is happy to work in finding a solution but none of us have heard anything further. After further discussion, the Board directed Ms. Koeper to send a follow up email to Terri Schulz at the Chamber to ask for their response to the Association's concerns and again ask for the Association and the Town Chairs to be included in the planning process going forward. John Miller also added that permission would need to be granted by the Towns of Farmington and Dayton in order for wayfinding signs to be placed on the Town's rights of way. Ms. Koeper discussed various emails, phone calls and correspondence received including emails thanking the Association for the update regarding the meeting with the Sheriff's Department and the concerns regarding the Chamber of Commerce's branding initiative. One of the emails strongly agreed with the concerns and specifically raised the issue that the parking for public boating access on the Chain already far exceeds the DNR's recommended maximum access resulting in real safety issues on the Chain. This was a particular concern of his as he and his wife had been hit while kayaking on McCrossen Lake a few years ago by a visiting pontoon boat exceeding slow no wake. The Board reiterated its concerns over parking that exceeds the DNR standards for safety.

Lake District Report: No one from the Lake District was able to attend the meeting; however Bob Ellis asked Ms. Koeper to report that the Lake District Board is currently reviewing the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. The Board discussed that since the Chain O'Lakes currently exceeds the DNR standards for maximum public parking access and since 77.7% of stakeholders surveyed in connection with development of the Management Plan reported that watercraft traffic had a negative or somewhat negative effect on Chain waters, the Association would ask the Lake District to include language in the Management Plan that the Lake District would not be in support of any action that would increase access to the Chain above the current and/or DNR

maximum levels. Ms. Koeper indicated she would discuss the language with Ted Johnson of the DNR and, if the DNR agreed with the concept, Mr. Miller indicated he would propose this to the Lake District.

Nomination of Directors for Election at Annual Meeting: Directors with terms expiring at the upcoming annual meeting are: Dick Conover, John Hebbring, and Carl Nelson. Mr. Hebbring had indicated he planned to retire from the Board at the end of his term. The Board discussed the need for additional persons to join the Board and directed Ms. Koeper to put a request for more member involvement in the newsletter. Motion made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Underberg to nominate Mr. Conover and Mr. Nelson to run for election to the Board at the annual meeting of members. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- a. Communications Committee: Ms. Koeper discussed the need for different voices to contribute written articles ready for publication in the newsletter. Ms. Koeper asked for suggestions for the newsletter and outlined the actions she has taken to reach out to the DNR and various other persons for articles. The board discussed various potential topics.
- b. Safety Committee: The Board discussed the need for enforcement of parking restrictions around the boat landings to be part of the discussion with the Sherriff's Department prior to Memorial Day as allowing even more boat access over the DNR standards creates real navigational and safety issues on the Chain.
- c. Zoning Committee: Mr. Miller discussed his request to the Planning & Zoning Office on behalf of the Town of Dayton and the Dayton Plan Commission to change the roadway setback for shoreland properties back to 30 feet from the right of way in the upcoming general zoning ordinance changes as discussed at the last Board meeting. Mr. Miller relayed that the Zoning Administrator thought it was precluded from making a different roadway setback for shoreland properties due to state shoreland zoning limitations; however, Ms. Koeper indicated her conversations with the DNR reflected that the state does not preclude the County from changing its roadway setbacks with respect to any properties, including shoreland properties. Mr. Miller will ask for clarification from the Planning & Zoning Office as to their objection to Dayton's proposal. Ms. Koeper will also obtain confirmation from the DNR that the change would be permitted under state law. Neither Mr. Miller nor Ms. Koeper has received a response from the Town of Farmington with regard to this issue. Mr. Miller and Ms. Koeper reviewed the recently published proposed zoning ordinance changes including a new provision to allow stand alone parking lots as a new category of conditional land use on properties zoned Hamlet, Rural Commercial – Neighborhood, and Rural Commercial – General. In its discussion, the Board wondered what the reasoning was behind this new proposed change and agreed that the possibility of stand alone parking lots would be detrimental to the Chain area and this should be expressed to the Planning & Zoning Office.

2020 Meeting Dates: Ms. Peterson proposed the dates for the upcoming Board meetings for the year as April 8, 2020; May 16, 2020; June 20, 2020; August 5, 2020; October 7, 2020. The Neighborhood Chairpersons Meeting will be held Saturday, May 16, 2020 and the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, June 20, 2020.

There was no member input. Ms. Gaastra and Mr. Nelson moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 am. Motion carried.

Lorraine Koeper
Acting Secretary