

Friends of Fence Lake Inc.
Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

Location: The Flame Restaurant, Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin

Officers and Members at Large in attendance: Mike Bolger, president; Peter Prickett, vice president; Patty Michalik, treasurer; Susan Hallett, secretary; Christine Bremmer, Mike Huspek, Bill Reis, Craig Sanford, Absent: Donna Wilkes

Attendance including board members, association members, and friends - Approximately 77

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 10:13 by President, Mike Bolger.

A. Welcome – Mike Bolger, president

- a. Mike introduced Dawn Snippen, the general manager of the Flame.
 - i. Hoping to open the last week of June. Menu – appetizers, pizza, burgers, sandwiches, higher end menu items for dinner. They will have a chef and bar manager. Fresh fruit infused and smoked drinks.
- b. Introduction of current board members and former board members in attendance.

B. Approve 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes – Susan Hallett, secretary

- a. Christine Bremmer moved to approve the June 10, 2023, meeting minutes as written and posted on the website. Peter Prickett seconded. There was no further discussion. The voice vote was favorable, and the minutes were approved.

C. Financial report – Patty Michalik, treasurer

- a. \$38,000 operating funds
- b. \$51,000 reserve funds in various CDs for emergencies
- c. Last year we had an income of \$44,000 and expenses of \$31,000 which included operational spending, swag inventory, and paying boat monitors.
- d. Membership numbers – We are right on par with last year. 154 members as compared to last year at 152
- e. Besides dues and donations our income also comes from swag sales and the calendar fundraiser.
- f. We are at \$4,000 in donations this year compared to \$6000 last year
- g. Chris Kaufman moved to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Beth May seconded. There was no further discussion. The voice vote was favorable, and the Treasurer's report was approved.

D. Election – Pete Prickett, vice president

- a. The Board of Directors nominated Patty Michalik, Donna Wilkes, and Peter Prickett for re-election to the board for their second 3-year term, and further nominated Bridget Leonhard as a new director for a 2-year term. The Board recommended an affirmative vote by the members for these nominees.
 - i. Kim Beiser made a motion to elect the slate of board members as presented. John Whealon seconded. There was no further discussion.

The voice vote was favorable. Patty Michalik, Donna Wilkes, and Peter Prickett were re-elected to three-year terms on the board, and Bridget Leonhard was elected to a 2-year term.

- b. We will have more openings on the board in the future. Interested individuals should reach out to any current board members for more information. Volunteering on a committee is a terrific way to get your feet wet.

E. Education – Bill Reis

- a. On behalf of the Friends of Fence Lake, Bill Reis applied for a DNR grant in the amount of \$2,000 to create a brochure providing information for Fence Lake residents and visitors.
- b. Please give them to friends, neighbors and visitors. We especially want to reach people who rent out their cabins. (VRBO or short-term rentals)
- c. FoFL cannot enforce any regulations; we simply strive to educate.
- d. Thanks to Bridget Leonard, Maria Snarski, and Lis Bissell for their creative assistance and to the Board for their input.
- e. Charlie Pugh raised a question as to whether or not the Friends of Fence Lake have been involved in or done any research on shoreline restoration and preservation.
 - i. Bill Reis responded that while many of our efforts relate to shoreline preservation we do not have a specific focus in that area. We try to encourage best practices. Susan Hallett has DNR guides relating to that topic available. We welcome further discussion and perhaps the formation of a committee.

F. Clean Boats Clean Waters – Ken Frauenhoffer, CBCW

- a. Invasive species are a real problem. Our chain has very few invasive species - Rainbow Smelt and Mystery Snail. White Sand Lake closed their landing due to Eurasian Milfoil. The Tribe has buoys and mats out. Volunteers are pulling the Milfoil out by hand. Once you have it, it is nearly impossible to rid the lake of it.
- b. We have three paid monitors (Thursday through Sunday) and volunteers who are at the landing to make sure that your boat is clean. We don't get involved with the permits or wake boats.
- c. Jim Blinka raised a question. The Crawling Stone launch has seen more transient boaters since permits are now required at the Fence Lake landing. Does anyone monitor that landing?
 - i. Crawling Stone has its own lake association, with CBCW volunteers and paid monitors.
- d. Jim Blinka also mentioned that within the UW-Milwaukee is the Milwaukee Water School. They are doing research and getting close to an herbicide that is environmentally friendly. Bill Reis will connect with Jim Blinka for more information.
- e. Kim Beiser asked if there was still a camera at the landing?
 - i. Supposedly the camera is still there however the full unit including the speaker and solar panel isn't there.
- f. Scott Harrod reminded everyone that White Sand Lake drains into Pokegama so the Eurasian Milfoil issue should be a concern for all of us.

G. Wake Boat Ban – Christine Bremmer/Ken Frauenhoffer/Mike Bolger

- a. Christine Bremmer explained that numerous studies have shown that wake boats accelerate the dispersion of invasive species, damage shoreline, uproots wild

rice beds, and disrupt loon nests. After conducting their own research, the Tribe decided to pass an ordinance banning the use of wake boats to protect the lake from further damage. The Friends of Fence Lake Board does not have any additional information beyond what has been published by the Tribe on their website and Facebook page.

- b. A couple of members in attendance and an attendee on Zoom expressed concern about our organization's perceived recommendation of, or support of, the Tribe's wake boat ban.
 - i. The Friends of Fence Lake Board passed along information we had come across regarding wake boats and their impact on the lake ecosystems at the Tribe's request last year. We did not recommend nor ask for a ban and had no notice the tribe was considering one before it was issued.
 - ii. Anyone with additional questions about the ban should contact Celeste Hockings with the Tribal DNR.
- c. Boat launch permits can be purchased at the Market – The permitting system is being enforced by Tribal Wardens. They are only checking vehicles with boat trailers. Currently it is being monitored daily by someone from the hatchery. The fine for launching without a permit is \$200.

H. Other business

- a. Ice Out contest winner – Jim Wilkes won this year; ice out was April 12th
- b. The Boat Parade this year will go around the north end of the lake on July 5th. The Overland family has graciously volunteered to lead the parade. The theme will be *Gilligan's Island Celebrates the Fourth of July*. The Judges' boat will be at the end of the route by Strawberry Point.
- c. Vilas County has a new ordinance which contains rules, regulations, and permitting requirements for tourist rooming houses (VRBOs). If you have a concern with a neighbor's VRBO, contact the Deputy Zoning Administrator for Lac du Flambeau, Tammy Warwick, at 715-479-3744 or email her at: tawarw@vilascountywi.gov
- d. Sandy Bolger reported on the new SWAG we have to offer this year. We will once again be selling at the boat landing and by appointment with Sandy.
- e. For more information on the road easement issue, an article was recently posted on WPR.org
- f. Beth May announced that once again we will be producing a calendar. Order forms are available on our website. Send in photo submissions by September 15th to: FLAcalendarcommittee@gmail.com
- g. Social Committee – Need a social committee person or persons to coordinate events and activities, such as the boat parade and annual potluck social. Please contact a board member if interested.
- h. Christine Bremmer proposed a garage sale fundraiser. Lake residents can clean out their garages/boat houses and donate items. If we have a sale it will be located at the Condos or someplace similar where there will be more space. Watch social media for more information.

I. Adjournment

- a. Craig Sanford motioned to adjourn. Don Tingwald seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 am by President, Mike Bolger.