

Fence Lake Association, Inc.
Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 23, 2022 (Postponed from June 11, 2022)
10:00 am

Location: The Flame Restaurant, Lac du Flambeau, Wisconsin

Officers and Members at Large in attendance: Beth May, president; Mike Bolger, vice president; Susan Hallett, secretary; Kim Beiser, Peter Prickett, Bill Reis, Donna Wilkes
Absent: Patty Michalik, treasurer; Charlene DeWald, Monika Krigbaum

Members and friends in attendance (signed in): Ann Marie Bauman, Jim Blinka, Ken and Jutta Frauenhoffer, Larry Hallett, Scott Harrod, Angela and Michael Huspek, Dan Helfner, Chris Kaufmann, Debby and Jim Kopczynski, Chuck and Marge Kostichka, Dave May, Christine Bremer Muggli and Paul Muggli, Todd Novakofski and Pat Zbikowski, Kay Reis, Paul and Tess Rowland, and Tom Savage.

Meeting called to order at 10:06 am by President, Beth May.

A. Welcome, Our Purpose, and Our Board - Beth May

- a. At our annual meeting in 2021 we proposed a new mission statement, *"To build community with our neighbors and the Lac du Flambeau Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa Nation, to preserve and protect Fence Lake waters for today and future generations through educational programs and activities"*. We have started to do just that. All changes taking place are for the betterment of the lake.
- b. We were blessed that the right people were added to the board at last year's meeting; Patty Michalik and Peter Prickett.

B. Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes - Susan Hallett

- a. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with since the minutes were available for review on the website prior to the meeting.
- b. Kim Beiser motioned to accept the minutes from the 2021 Fence Lake Association, Inc. meeting as written. Mike Bolger seconded. There was no further discussion. Votes cast by show of hands. The vote was favorable, and the minutes were approved.

C. Update on Organizational Structure & Tax Status - Peter Prickett

- a. We were originally formed similar to a homeowner's association (501c4). Spent year trying to determine how to become a 501c3 non-profit, tax exempt.
- b. We need to form a new organization called the Friends of Fence Lake, Inc. It will take time to become a qualified lake association. We will continue as the Fence Lake Association, Inc. until the new entity is in place. At that time the Fence Lake Association, Inc. will become inactive.
- c. We have legal and tax consultants working with us.
- d. Original board was simply following the direction of the DNR. When fundraising became a goal, changes had to be made. Other lakes have gone through the same process. Now we are going in the right direction.

D. Treasurer's Report & Budget Approval - Mike Bolger for Patty Michalik

- a. Questions? Send email to fencelakeassociation@gmail.com for Patty.

- b. The financial report will be available on the website.
- c. The SWAG sales took a year off but will be back again, perhaps later this year.
- d. Almost half of the lake's property owners are members.
- e. January 1 to end of June 2022: 156 paid memberships. \$13,065 in revenue, \$6,114 in expenses.
- f. We continue to raise money in the event we have to remediate an invasive species or lake quality problem. \$70,229 cash in bank. Of that, \$60,000 reserved for any lake emergency.
- g. Expenses include UW-Oshkosh interns and hired staff to monitor the boat landing, camera fee split 50/50 with the Tribe, Boat Landing Kiosk, Constant Contact, Post Office Box fee, CBCW supplies, etc.
- h. Proposed 2022 budget:
 - i. \$15,250 revenue
 - ii. \$14,525 expenses – mostly due to the CBCW hired monitors. Camera fees, legal fees, and CPA advisor/filing taxes, offset by decreased spending in other areas as compared to 2021.
 - iii. \$725 net profit
 - iv. Patty had each committee determine budget needs based on 2022 planned activities
- i. Pete Prickett motioned to accept the proposed budget as presented. Christine Bremer seconded. Discussion followed: Scott Harrod asked when exactly the budget was for the fiscal year starting January 1, 2022, or January 1, 2023. Consensus was it was for calendar year, but we will get clarification from Patty. Should state this in the bylaws when the new organization is incorporated. After discussion a vote was held by show of hands. The budget was accepted as presented.
- j. A question was brought up about how we have accumulated so much money in the bank. We have had very few expenses prior to the last couple of years also some members gave more each year than dues.

E. Education Committee: Project Updates, Kiosk, Website - Bill Reis

- a. Bill noted that where he is from, all of beaches on the Lake Monona chain are closed due to blue green algae. We do not want that to happen to our lake, which is why we need to educate and be proactive.
- b. Social media – we are working on redoing our web page with the main focus Preserve and Protect Fence Lake. Make the webpage a go to area for information so property owners/visitors can make good decisions. Boating, fishing, lakeshore, wildlife, social, ordinances. Still a work in progress.
- c. Kiosk – In process of constructing a kiosk at our boat landing. James Wilkes has taken the lead on building the kiosk in partnership with the Tribe. We will be able to post educational information so people using the landing can learn.

F. CBCW: Boat Landing Coverage & Report – Ken Frauenhoffer

- a. Boat landing monitor coverage is different than in years previous. We have three different places to hire people from besides volunteers.
- b. Thousands of people use our ramp every year. People from all over the country and other lakes in our chain. All it takes is one boat with invasives to cause a problem in our entire chain. 260 lakes 80+ miles of rivers many have invasive species. Boats from seven other lakes and chains need to be decontaminated.

The word seems to have gotten out that we check boats so people will lie about what waters they've been into avoid being turned away.

- c. Last year, 284 volunteer hours and 78 paid hours. So far this year, 58 volunteer hours (spread among only 4 people). Paid interns are expensive, UW-Oshkosh charges us \$20.49 per hour for their interns. We need to get more volunteers. Ken has a volunteer calendar set up through google, you will need to have a Gmail account for access. Please look at your calendar. Haven't been successful at recruiting volunteers from other lakes in the chain.
- d. Jephrey Valliare from the Tribe is going to school to become a warden. He is our paid monitor on Fridays.
- e. Zebra mussels – crossing our fingers. We are lucky that rusty crawfish have to swim upstream to Fence.
- f. Christine Bremer commented that the original goal of the Fence Lake Association was to protect the lake & landing after the landing improvements were made, in the anticipation of increased boat traffic and potential for problems. She also suggested we should look into a decontamination station at our landing, that way boaters wouldn't have to go into Lac du Flambeau to do it and would be more likely to comply. Ken felt the cost would be quite high. Kay Reis formally proposed getting a committee together to study the feasibility. Christine seconded. We will bring up the discussion at our next board meeting.
- g. Banded mystery snail has attributed to swimmers' itch.
- h. Beth commented that the marshy area next to the landing is intentional to filter the water before it goes back into the lake.

G. Loon Committee: Lead Collection Containers – Kay Reis

- a. Kay shared her recent experience watching an adult loon and baby by her dock. Mom was teaching baby how to dive and get food. Such a wonderful symbol of wildlife on our lake.
- b. Lead tackle and monofilament line collection containers at the landing (tube was displayed). Lis Bissell will be in charge of emptying it. "Get out the lead" from your tackle box flyer was also available.
- c. Christine mentioned that Greg Johnson reported finding a lot of eagles on the chain dying of lead poisoning, other animals as well.

H. Social Committee – Kim Beiser

- a. Boat parade has been very successful but became too long and boats dropped out. This year the route was shortened to a loop around the north end. We had great participation. Next year the route will loop on the south end. We will alternate.
- b. "Team USA Fence Lake goes to the Olympics" was this year's theme. Trophy winners were: Prickett family 1st, Michalik family 2nd, and Kopczynski/Dzuadulewicz family. Winner of the dock decorating contest, "Best of Dock", was the Smith family. The girls were handing out popsicles!
- c. Next event is the golf outing (Best Ball) at Trout Lake on August 13. Let Kim know if you'd like to play. Later in the day is our Annual Potluck Social at the home of Diane and Bruce Marshall on Strawberry Point. Fence Lake Association will provide chicken. A-M bring appetizer or salad, N-Z bring side dish or dessert. Bring your own chairs and beverage. It's always a good time. We will have a guest speaker, Greg Johnson.

I. Membership & Member Concerns - Donna Wilkes

- a. Working hard to increase membership
- b. Membership is the committee that gathers and holds member concerns submitted to be acknowledged, discussed, and passed along to the Tribe/appropriate regulating body.
 - i. Wake boats – we can't give out tickets, we can't ban them from our lake, we can educate and pass along the concern to the Tribe. Christine asked if the education committee could get some background information on wake boats. If someone is interested in doing more contact Donna who will send information about the concerned member.
 - ii. VRBO rentals – Some property owners who rent out their homes are allowing people to camp on the property besides having a fully occupied housing unit. Since septic systems are designed by bedrooms, exceeding the number of people using the facilities puts a strain on their septic which can cause problems. Can VRBOs be banned? Again, we are not able to regulate, only educate. Regulation is Vilas County's responsibility.
 - iii. Fireworks - We can't regulate. If your neighbor is shooting off fireworks and it is upsetting to you or family member, please speak to the neighbor.
 - iv. Septic dumping area off East Boundary Trail – A concerned citizen is willing to form a committee to look into it if anyone else is interested. Contact Donna.

J. Fundraising: Introducing the Calendar Project - Beth May and Christine Bremer

- a. This project started with members from the Loon Committee - Maria Snarski and Lis Bissell. Funds raised will help fund the Clean Boats Clean Waters Project and other initiatives. FLA 2023 Calendar order form will be available on website. Featuring beautiful photography submitted by lake members, including photography by lake resident, Paul Muggli, a talented photographer. Order forms available at meeting, please take one. Calendars are \$25 each including postage. They would make excellent holiday gifts. Shipped in early November. This is a self-funding program.

K. Nomination & Election of New Directors – Peter Prickett

- a. Thank you to our directors who are stepping down, Charlene, Kim, and Monika.
- b. Six directors now. We can have a maximum of ten. Bill would like to run for another term. Pete has already spoken with two others who are interested, Craig Sanford and Patricia Schober.
- c. Nominations from the floor: Christine Bremer..
- d. Chris Kaufmann moved that we approve the entire slate of four directors: Bill, Craig, Patricia, and Christine. Bill Reis seconded. The slate of directors was approved by a show of hands.

L. Adjournment

- a. Susan motioned to adjourn. Deb Kopczynski seconded. The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:42 by President, Beth May.

Respectfully submitted,
 Susan Hallett, secretary
 July 23, 2022