

**Friends of Fence Lake Inc.**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 22, 2024, 10:00 A.M.**

Location: Bolger Residence - 2335 Circle Drive, Lac du Flambeau

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

Others in attendance: Maria Snarski\*, Lis Bissell\*, Ken Frauenhoffer, Scott Harrod\*, Bridget Leonhard, Beth May\*

\*Via Zoom

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Meeting called to order at 10:01 by President, Mike Bolger

**A. Welcome** – Mike B

**B. Approve agenda** – Mike B

**C. Approve meeting minutes** - Susan

- a. It was moved by Bill and seconded by Donna to approve the board minutes from the November 9, 2023, meeting as written. There was no further discussion. The voice vote was favorable, and the minutes were approved.

**D. Financial report** – Patty (The treasurer's report was emailed to all board members prior to today's meeting)

- a. CD's have been opened at Peoples and Incredible banks, they mature in June, August, and December.
- b. Operating cash: \$35,200 to date
- c. Revenue from memberships about the same as last year.
- d. Donations are behind from last year. The Flame became a new member and gave a corporate donation of \$100.
- e. No expenses to date with the exception of membership expenses.
- f. Committees: have budget requests to Patty by end of April.
- g. It was moved and seconded to accept the treasurer's report dated February 21, 2024. The voice vote was favorable, and the report was approved.

**E. Membership** – Donna

- a. Same pace as last year 131 members. Not gaining on membership. Bulk comes in during the first three months of the year.
- b. Eleven new members, some who didn't pay last year, paid this year and vice versa.
- c. We should consider putting poster put up at the Flame to get members, since the owner is a member, plus educational brochure, and forms.

**F. PayPal/Website** - Patty

- a. We now have PayPal as an online membership payment option. Beth has been working on getting it set up on the website. Scott noted that it is difficult to use; radio buttons don't allow options. He will email Beth with his suggestions. Beth is working on being able to type in your own dollar amount. We are absorbing the PayPal charges. Since we are a non-profit now we can get a discounted rate. We can couple Venmo with it.

**G. CBCW Grant update and Town of Lac Du Flambeau Grant**

- a. We received the \$4000 CBCW grant.
- b. Christine looked into the Town of LDF Grant for \$1000 – We will need to apply before August of this year for 2025. Crawling Stone is using it to pay for monitors.

**H. DNR Grant - Bill**

- a. Bill learned that six months prior to applying for the grant he should have received permission from the Friends of Fence Lake organization, but at that time we were in the process of changing to a 501c3. However, the DNR is allowing us to send in our resolution after application.
- b. Therefore, Bill presented the following Grant Project Resolution:
  - i. WHEREAS, *Friends of Fence Lake Association, Inc.(FOFL)* is interested in obtaining a cost-share grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the purposed of *producing and printing an informational brochure for lake residents and visitors* as described in the application;
  - ii. WHEREAS, the respondent attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the application;
  - iii. WHEREAS, an Agreement/Contract is required to carry out the project; and
  - iv. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that *Friends of Fence Lake, Inc.(FOFL)* will meet the financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the project and hereby authorizes and empowers the following official, *William Reis, FOFL board member*, to submit the following documents to the DNR for financial assistance that may be available:
    - 1. Sign and submit application
    - 2. Enter into an Agreement/Contract with the DNR
    - 3. Submit required reports to the DNR to satisfy the Agreement/Contract as appropriate
    - 4. Submit reimbursement request(s) to the DNR per Agreement/Contract
    - 5. Sign and submit other documentation as necessary to complete the project per the Agreement/Contract
  - v. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the respondent will comply with all local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and ordinances relating to this project and the cost-share Agreement/Contract.
- c. Peter Prickett made a motion to approve the *Grant Project Resolution* as presented; Patty Michalik seconded. There was no further discussion. The voice vote was favorable, and the Resolution approved.

**I. Education/Lake Living Brochure - Bill**

- a. Bill submitted the application to the DNR for \$2,000. It was approved for 2/3 coming from the state (\$1,340) and 1/3 (\$660) coming from FOFL as our share. We can hire out or do our 1/3 through volunteer in kind work @ \$15 per hour.
- b. As stated in the Resolution, Bill will be our liaison and provide the DNR with progress reports, etc.
- a. Maria is willing to continue with the brochure along with Lis. Ideas for content from the board will be sent to Lis and Maria directly, while keeping Bridget in the

loop. They are to keep track of their time and expenses. We can reimburse them for incidental costs.

- c. We can't bill anything until it is officially approved on March 15<sup>th</sup>, which is the start of the grant period.

**J. Calendar Committee – Maria/Lis**

- a. Maria has received 12 photos already. They could use more winter scenes (hard to come by this year!) If she sees a photo of the lake posted on Facebook she reaches out to the contributor to see if they'd be willing to submit it for our calendar.

**K. Fundraiser – Christine**

- a. Garage sale with items donated from FOFL members, proceeds going toward our organization. It is a lot of work. We could advertise it on social media and in the Lakeland Times. Perhaps it could be held in the parking lot of the Fence Lake Condos or the LdF elementary school. Christine will spearhead and look into the details then report at our next meeting.

**L. CBCW update – Ken**

- a. Ken has been in contact with last year's inspectors. The older gentleman would like to continue. He has a girlfriend who is interested as well, but they would need to understand that they will need to work separate shifts. Ben may be traveling for 6 weeks in the latter part of the summer.
- b. We cannot have more than three employees otherwise we will have to pay unemployment taxes. Either give the older couple more hours or Ken can put in more hours. We should consider an advertisement on Facebook and in the Lakeland Times for paid monitor; \$15/hr for 15 weeks. Thursday, Friday through Sunday for 30 hours a week.
- c. Volunteer rewards – We can't give a membership.

**M. Social Committee – Mike B**

- a. Still haven't found anyone to chair the social committee. A couple of lake residents' names have been suggested as potential social committee people; the Zimmers on East Fence Lake Road and the Pritchards on the north end. Mike H already spoke to Beth Pritchard. She would be willing to serve on the committee but does not want to be the chair. Mike B will reach out to the Zimmers.

**N. SWAG – Sandy/Susan**

- a. We are going to take an inventory of what we have and go from there, replenishing our stock of toddler items, baseball/trucker caps, and quarter-zips. A lot of people requested long sleeved tee shirts. We are going to try to sell the sweatshirts we have before ordering more. The order will need to be placed in time so that we will be fully stocked on Memorial Weekend. Sandy will get the dollar amount of the order to Patty to include in the draft budget.
- b. Last year we sold at the landing 2-3 times per month. It was a great opportunity to meet people from around the lake and tell them about the FOFL mission.

**O. Other business**

- a. *Lake map for kiosk at the landing* – Mike was able to get information from the person who does the GIS mapping for Vilas County. It will cost about \$100 which we still have in the budget from last year. If the map is large enough to cover the back of the kiosk it will be able to show more details such as depths. They do not do the laminating; we will have to take care of that. Mike will follow up with Vilas County.
- b. *Boat in the lake* – We haven't received any word back from the Tribe about the boat removal or if we can simply go ahead and remove it. Mike is still working on it.

- c. *Annual meeting* - is set for Saturday, June 8, at the LdF elementary school. Perhaps since the Flame became a member and they plan to open in May, we could hold our meeting back at the Flame again. Mike B will reach out to them.
  - i. Pete will look into who is up for election this year. We do have a couple openings. Someone indicated on the membership form that they would be interested. Mike has the name and Pete will follow up.
- d. We will not have an April Retreat this year. Instead we will have a meeting on Thursday, May 30, to prepare our agenda for the annual meeting.
- a. Maria is a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point where she is doing research on the health of Fence and other lakes on the Chain. She is hoping to send out an online survey and then follow up with some of the respondents. She is not ready to implement the research study yet, but when she is ready later this spring she will need to get full permission from the board to conduct the survey. The FOFL would not be considered a sponsor.
  - i. This is something we should be able to approve via email at a later date.

**P. Adjournment**

- a. Susan made a motion to adjourn. Pete seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m. by President, Mike Bolger.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Hallett, secretary  
February 22, 2024