LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION

MINUTES – Board of Directors Meeting
September 7, 2019
Brasch Residence

Present: Tom Catlin, Len Brasch, Ken Swanson, Dennis Reimer, Bruce Rucks, Lindy Rucks (by phone) Jerry Voigt

Absent: Dave Schultz

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Reimer at 1:03 pm.

Opening Remarks

Dennis welcomed the group and thanked Len for his hospitality.

Minutes

The July 3rd and August 18th minutes were reviewed and accepted with no changes. Motion by Tom, second by Len. Motion was approved unanimously.

LLA board member code of conduct

Dennis handed out an outline of the LLA Board ground rules for meetings and board member conduct. He indicated that while he wanted everyone to take the ground rules to heart, it was a first draft and we will discuss any recommendations additions or changes at next meeting.

Financial Report

Lindy provided an update to the finances. The current funds are $4683.36, which is on par for this time with results in prior years. Picnic expenses were $857.55, and we collected $129 in donations. Last year the picnic cost was $1310.02, with $246 in donations; the difference was a much lower food costs this year. All reimbursements for the picnic, buoys, and boat parade have been made.

Friends of Long Lake (FLL) covered the expenses ($955.78) for the mailing of the wake/no wake resident outreach and wake signage for the launch. FLL has asked for LLA to reimburse these expenses, as they are not in within the mission of FLL. In addition, it is customary that FLL pays for mailing of one newsletter each year (LLA covers the other). In 2019 FLL paid for both newsletters. Our cost for one issue is $238.15, for which it wants a 50% reimbursement. Lindy motioned that LLA reimburse $1193.93 to FLL for these expenses. Len seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Len…Do we contact late payers? Yes, with 120 paid this year to date (152 in 2018), so we are down in members at this point. A recent mailing to late payers should help close that gap.

Bruce motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Ken seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Membership lists…Dennis recommended we combine the LLA and FLL lists into one spreadsheet to simplify record-tracking. We also should collect emails as part of this process. Bruce agreed to take on this task as part of the Membership Committee activity, working with FLL to reconcile the lists.

Draft proposal for "water-level" chapter of lake management plan

Len reviewed the rough plan he and Dave drafted for updating the lake management plan. The focus of this update is to address the current highwater levels and the effect on shorelines along with the possibility of higher water in the future. He outlined that there will be six parts with each part including both educational and survey aspects. We intend to select outside neutral parties/outside experts to help with the education. (Initial suggestions for the experts were identified, but the committee is open to other ideas.) The sections include:

1. Water levels and causes of shoreline erosion
2. Water level effects on aquatic and shoreline vegetation
3. Methods and alternatives to shoreline protection/repair
4. Comparison and contrast issues of water level use restrictions and safety
5. Water level effects on safety
6. Water level management sensitivity and open recreation areas.

Len indicated that people that are remote over winter will have opportunity to view the educational sessions online (video) and respond to an electronic survey. The goal will be to prepare this information by next Spring (Memorial Day).

The board agreed with the direction. Several alterations to the draft outline were suggested, including broadening the focus statement to "shoreline or shoreline issues" and not just "shoreline erosion".

A one-per-month timeline for the six sessions was suggested. The timeline will be finalized and meshed with the timeline needed to revise the chapter in the Long Lake Management plan.

Jerry volunteered to participate on the Long Lake Plan committee to help with execution of the plan.

Springwater report

Jerry reported that there was no further activity with Springwater since the last board meeting. The next Springwater Town meeting is Monday, September 9th. Jerry and Len will attend.

Considerable discussion surrounded our relationship with the Springwater and Saxeville boards. It was deemed very important to improve LLA's standing with both towns and to work to improve our relationships. The board agreed that we should move forward in a constructive manner and offer them value in the form of information and keeping lower costs to manage the lake in the long run.

The process we are pursuing for the water level chapter in the lake management plan should help with healing of feelings and perceptions of the town board members, as well as most (not all) people on the lake. We should include the town board members in the process.

Dennis appointed Jerry as the new Springwater liaison with the official resignation of Bob Schnese (the previous liaison).

The committee reviewed and discussed a draft letter to Springwater Board outlining the LLA plan and inviting Springwater into a dialogue. Jerry motioned to accept the letter with minor editorial changes, Bruce seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. The revised letter will be given to the town board chairman at the Springwater meeting on Monday, September 9th.

Saxeville report – Tom/Len

Len explained the exchange at the last Saxeville meeting, which indicated that our relationship with the Saxeville board has changed. While we have traditionally had a very good and beneficial relationship with Saxeville, our relationship has taken a step back. The town indicated that we need to get a better handle on our resident's views of lake issues.

To renew a positive relationship, the board discussed options. It was determined that the best course of action would be for Len to pursue constructive dialogue with the Saxeville town chairman.

In addition, Ken suggested a draft letter be prepared for Saxeville like the one for Springwater. The board agreed and Dennis will prepare a letter for the board to review/approve by email.

Len will be liaison with Saxeville this winter while Tom is out of the area.

Filling vacant seat on the LLA board

Dennis reported on several reach outs he has made for a new person to fill the vacant board seat. He indicated that he would work on finding a replacement but had no one to recommend for approval to date. Wendy Vincent, Rick Shaber, Stu McIntyre and Dave Wangerin are on the list of potential candidates.

Dennis requested a volunteer to take the Vice President role. Len agreed to take on this position. Ken motioned to accept Len as LLA Vice President, Jerry seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Old Business

Fish box key – Since the last meeting Bruce reported that the fish box at the launch was checked. The key now resides with the Treasurer of FLL. $31 in donations were provided to FLL from the fish box.

Fish stocking fees from FLL – Since the last meeting Dennis reported that FLL approved up to $2500 toward fish stocking.

Lake patrol hours -- Ken indicated that the Sherriff's patrol did a good job of patrolling when they were on the lake. Ten warnings were issued, and they were on the lake 66 hours this year. Labor Day and the weekend prior were weekends in which all three days were patrolled. The Sheriff intends to improve their process by scheduling time into their officer's schedules instead of just positioning Long Lake patrol as volunteer time. The board discussed the fact that no citations were given and agreed to recommend that the patrol officers should issue citations instead of only warnings.

New Business

South Long Lake Road Speed limit – Doug Herwig has suggested changing from a 35 mph to a 25 mph posted speed limit and asked the board's consideration. Saxeville and Springwater would both have to pass ordinances to change the limit. This does not need DOT approval. The board discussed the issue and decided:

1. Len discuss with the Saxeville Board how to best handle the suggestion from the town's perspective, and
2. Dennis suggest that Mr. Harwig (with the help of Bruce) develop a petition of residents along the road to gage interest form these most affected.

Dennis agreed to contact Doug to inform him of the board's this stepwise approach to his request.

Social media – the board discussed how the Facebook page has caused perception problems for the LLA and the LLA Board of Directors. Lindy indicated that the Facebook page is being managed and monitored and controversial posts (negative or malicious) are taken down. Dennis was concerned with the perception and reflection on LLA and indicated he would clarify our independence from the Facebook page in the newsletter and other communication to residents.

Website postings – Dennis clarified that the only official information from LLA is on the LLA web site. Dennis requested that his name be added to the website so residents may contact him with comments/concerns.

Fall Newsletter – Bruce needs input for the newsletter by November 15th with goal to get newsletter into mail by November 30th. The board agreed that the newsletter should include applications for membership for both LLA and FLL, as well as the safe ice thickness graphic (timely for the winter edition). Agreed authors for sections of newsletter:

- President's Report – Dennis
- Fish Report – Dave
- CBCW, Friends – Tom
- Lake Management – Jim Schiek
- Yacht Club – Mike Cervinka
- New Lake management Plan Program – Len, Dave, Jerry
- Apparel – Rhea Teatek and Lori Schnese

Open Meetings – Dennis, we have been approached to have open meetings. Dennis suggested that if we do, we have ground rules, such as formally getting on the agenda. The board discussed concerns for how this would affect meetings and participation. Jerry volunteered to develop a draft policy for open meetings to be discussed at the next meeting.

Letter to the Membership – The board discussed and agreed that a timely, separate letter from Dennis to all property owners laying out what steps we are taking to address the Lake Management Plan (water levels). Jerry made a motion that we send a letter within the next 20 days outlining the proactive steps we are taking on the lake level chapter. Bruce seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Dennis will draft the letter for board review by email, and the letter will include reminders to visit the web site for information on progress in the future.

Next Meeting

November 9, 9:00 am at the Reimer residence.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Voigt
Secretary