HAMILTON LAKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors

July 14, 2020

The HLA Board met at the Hamilton Town Hall on July 14, 2020 with the following members present: Cathy Wagenknecht, Peggy Hayden, Val Fetters, Jayma Watkins, Janet Albright, Cheryl Silverhart, Karen Piekarski, Skip Markland, Jan Miller, Linda Skelly, Jan Biddle, Ginny DeBrunner, and Tonya Peters. Guests Present: Scott Banfield, Mark Gawel, Jeanine Walker, Dave Price, Gina Freer, and Paul Hayden. Number in Attendance: 13 board members, 6 guests, 19 Total.

Cathy Wagenknecht called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Scott Banfield gave an update on weed control. Treatment is done on invasive weeds/evasive species. The native weeds remain. We started out with a large amount of curly-leaf pondweed, over 100 acres. Treatment was done (May) later than normal because of water temperature. The treatment worked pretty good; there is some left, but under control. The curly-leaf treatment also worked on the eurasian watermilfoil, just now seeing results; it is well under control. Grant funds will be used for eurasian watermilfoil treatment soon. Fluridone was last used in 2017. IDNR is very conservative, declined the use of fluridone 2 times. This year, had only about 50 acres of eurasian watermilfoil, so fluridone treatment was declined. Algae treatment is done 50-75 ft out from shore; treatment is done in shallow areas and along shoreline. There are complaints of plants drifting, cut-offs, and coontail. Coontail is a native plant. IDNR won’t allow treatment of native weeds in the lake, but can treat in the Crystals. Crystal Bay/Crystal Cove are man-made channels. Native coontail treatment is privately paid for in those areas. Any hope to amend and allow treatment of native weeds is to try to plead a case to Debbie King, IDNR Permit Biologist; most likely will not happen. Leaving a plant community is good for fish habitat, create less algae bloom, and block things coming in from Black Creek. Hamilton Lake is a heavy/biologically plant lake. If treatment of coontail were to be done especially this late in the season, it would hurt water clarity and cause algae bloom. It was suggested to designate someone or a group of people to contact Debbie to voice shoreline problems, voice unhappiness & concerns, recreation concerns, and e-mail pictures. Perhaps a Zoom meeting with Debbie could be arranged. Scott said treatment of eurasian watermilfoil would happen soon, July 27 tentative date. Also suggest another algae treatment in August.

Minutes of the June 9th meeting presented by Vice-President Peggy Hayden were approved. Motion for approval was made by Jan Biddle and second by Tonya Peters. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report by Val Fetters. Income this month was $10,056.72 and expenses $11,435.00. Major expense was for algae and weed treatment. Total ending balance, June 2020 is $482,793.44. Motion to approve made by Tonya Peters and second by Peggy Hayden. Val shared with the board correspondence with our insurance agent/insurance carrier, Carper Koeppe/Auto Owners. This has to do with renewal of policy and HLA banking procedures. After discussion, it was suggested to find out exactly what is required and address this at next meeting.

Membership and Communication: Cheryl posted a couple “Did You Know” regarding weeds and buoys. Future postings include: compost, HL balance plant community and water quality.

Wildlife Control: Jayma reported the goose round-up was successful. Transported approximately 45 geese. To date, nothing has happen with the swan. Carl Voglewede is to speak at the Steuben County Lakes Council Annual meeting to be held August 1st at the Lake James Christian Assembly. Free pancake and sausage breakfast will be served followed by 8:30 a.m. meeting. It was noted, 1st 2 weeks of August swans molt and do not fly.

Weed Control: Report by Cheryl. With everything she has heard, she called Scott to come to the meeting tonight. District reps should collect information (name/address/reason for example: boat motor issue, can’t swim, etc) from people who have complaints or concerns regarding native plants/weed control and get info to Cheryl. This information will be compiled and sent on to Debbie King. Cheryl will head-up this process.

Grievance and General Welfare:

Buoys: Have had problems with people driving over buoys. Placed a 2nd “no wake” buoy at narrows. Cathy is going to refurbish the sign at the narrows.

Legislative and Council Coordination:

Hamilton Town Council: Meeting cancelled.

Steuben County Lakes Council: No July meeting. August 1st Annual Meeting.

101 Lakes Trust: No meeting since March. Possibly to meet tomorrow.

St Joe Watershed, Strategic Planning, LED Sign: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

1. Flags and Decals: District representatives reported status of distribution.
2. Membership/Weed Spray Invoice: Next year, the invoice will have a payment date of March 31.

New Business:

1. Clint submitted his resignation from the board. For next meeting, think about possible candidate for vacancy in District #5.
2. Michael Betten’s fund raising project fell through.
3. Welcome Packets: Cathy and the Justices have been working on them.
4. Summer Fest: 8/22/20. Still On. After discussion it was decided to not participate in this year Summer Fest. A motion was made by Jan Biddle and second by Jayma Watkins. Motion carried.
5. September Annual Meeting: Motion made: Do not have this meeting. Motion by Jan Biddle and second by Val Fetters. Motion carried.
6. New Residents: Anyone with this information, get name and address to Ginny.
7. Tonya reported that permit was approved for Poker Run next year.
8. It was decided to give a gift certificate to property owner where goose round-up took place. Motion was made by Jayma Watkins. A 1st was made by Peggy Hayden, second by Tonya Peters. Motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn: 1st Peggy Hayden, 2nd Jan Miller. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: August 11, 2020.

Secretary,

Linda Skelly