HAMILTON LAKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors

April 13, 2021

The Hamilton Lake Association Board met at the Hamilton Town Hall on April 13, 2021 with the following members present: Cathy Wagenknecht, Peggy Hayden, Valerie Fetters, Linda Skelly, Jan Biddle, Dave Price, Jan Miller, Gary Luechauer, Janet Albright, Gina Freer, and Karen Piekarski. Guests: Bill Miller, Rick Fetters, Janeen Walker, Jerry & Melinda Sweeten, and Tonya Peters. Number in attendance: 11 board members, 6 guests, 17 total.

Cathy Wagenknecht called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Special Speaker: Jerry Sweeten PHD, Ecosystem Connections Institute, LLC and Professor Emeritus of Biology and Environmental Studies Manchester University. Pete Hippensteel had shared Hamilton Lake history and water quality data with Jerry and referred Jerry to the HLA board. Jerry presented the background of his company. He calls himself a “Restoration Ecologist”. He talked about activity of the lake: 1) dynitke (lake turns twice a year), 2) hypoxia (dead zone/no oxygen), and 3) identifying the source of issue (nutrients coming in to the lake). Hamilton Lake Watershed equals 10,590 acres. What is not know: Lake Eutrophication (over nutriefying the system). He talked about phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment entering the lake and how much leaves; also, water flowing in and out of the lake and finding the best way to mitigate or address the issue.

Secretary’s Report: Linda Skelly. Minutes of the March 9, 2021 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Peggy Hayden and second by Janet Albright. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Valerie Fetters. Weed Spray income $24,017.20, donations $2,799.40, total income $26,819.27. Total Expense $4.95. Ending bank balance $533,727.06. Valerie received an “inactive” notice from the bank regarding the gaming account. It was decided to pay the Aquatic Enhancement invoice from this account. A motion to accept the report was made by Janet Albright and second by Peggy Hayden. Motion carried.

Membership and Communication:

* Membership: Cathy report for Cheryl. Currently need 326 flags.
* Social Media/Facebook: Cathy for Cheryl. “Did You Know” 1st post will be about flags. Upcoming posts: compost and buoys.
* Website: Karen. Updated website. In order to install PayPal, we need to upgrade system. A credit for current plan and price for upgrade, the cost would be approximately $564.00. A motion to update/upgrade and pay the cost was made by Janet Albright and second by Peggy Hayden. Motion carried.

Wildlife Control: Report by Dave. We have permit. 21 goose eggs and 7 swan eggs have been oiled.

Weed Control: Cathy for Cheryl. The contract from IDNR for the extension on LARE Grant Funds has been signed. What that means is that the grant that was approved on 4/1/2020 is extended for 1 year due to COVID. It will terminate May 2022. The grant is to not exceed $39,000.00. We have $25,208.22 to use in 2021. Requests are out for bids on aquatic weed control. We need 3 bids (required by IDNR) and they must be in by April 19. Debbie King is currently reviewing our permit application for treatment of native weeds.

Grievance and General Welfare:

* Environmental Concerns: Water Quality/Steuben County Lakes Council Report: Cathy. Gave update on State Legislature Wetland Bill #389.
* Buoys: Cathy. Rope now using will break but not as easy. It is the proper rope. Buoys are to be placed in May.

Legislative and Council Coordination:

* Hamilton Town Council: Peggy. Topics of Discussion: Triton is adding on and hiring more employees, Building/Contractor projects, Water Bill increase, and police body cams.
* 101 Lakes Trust: Janet. Concentrating on land in Steuben County and small properties.
* Poker Run: Tonya. Indiana/CDC Guidelines: We are currently in yellow and if upgraded to blue, limited number of people per gathering would be 250. After further discussion it was determined to continue thinking of ways to conduct a safe and fun event and to apply for DNR permit.

Old Business:

* Flags/Decals: Valerie. We ordered 600 last year. Valerie provided pictures of flags and their colors from previous years. There was discussion. Colors chosen for this year were deep purple and green. Valerie will look into color options available by vendor.
* Annual Meeting: Discussion took place regarding CDC Guidelines, speakers, and location.

New Business:

* $1000.00 FIST Grant from Steuben County Community Foundation to inspire youth to use their time and talents to helping their community: Report by Janet and Cathy. We have filed for the grant; we named our project: “Keep Hamilton Lake Beautiful for All Generations”.
* HLA Stickers: Jan Biddle. Turned in $175.00 to Val.
* Boating Safety Class: Jan Biddle. May 1, 2021. High School Cafeteria, 8:00 – 2:00 p.m. Need $40-50 to purchase bottled water.
* Shirts for Board Members: Peggy described the shirts and asked new board members Gina and Gary if they were interested.
* “Hamilton Happenings”: Janet. The newsletter is increasing number of pages from 2 to 4 pgs.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Hayden and second by Gary Luechauer. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Linda Skelly

Secretary