

Findley Lake Watershed Foundation
Minutes of Board Meeting
April 29, 2023

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am by President, Ed Mulkearn.

Quorum:

A quorum was declared present to conduct business.

Present:

Lex Brumagin, Chrissy Craffey, Ben Fergus, Marge Freund, Jeff Ireland, Lant Lictus, Ed Mulkearn,

Absent:

Bill Bracken, Bill Simpkins and Matt Wise

Member guests:

In person: none

Zoom: Mike Swartz

Members' comments on meeting agenda:

Ed polled member guests for comments on the meeting agenda.

The posted agenda was approved.

Minutes:

The minutes from the regular meeting on January 14, 2023 were reviewed. Chrissy Craffey questioned the wording on page 2, bullet point #3 under agenda suspension for guest comments: a concern about confusion from the statement by Dave McCoy re the Chautauqua Lake phosphorus loading being 50% from the lake bottom (internal loading). Marge Freund suggested that clarification not deletion of the statement was appropriate to prevent any misinterpretation of censoring. The clarification is that the 50% loading is an estimate. Sewers/septics create external loading. Chrissy also noted a correction under the Water Quality committee report, bullet point #4: the stormwater drainage problem was from Parsonage Road. The minutes were approved with correction noted.

Treasurer's Report:

Jeff Ireland presented the treasurer's report. This is a cumulative summary from January 1, 2023 through today (April 29, 2023).

****Ending Combined Balance (April 29, 2023)**

\$ 34,676.29

- Jeff reported that all bills are paid to date. He is waiting on an insurance invoice for the workers compensation policy.

- Jeff noted that there have been only two (2) online membership renewals to date for 2023. Last year, there were 23 online membership payments. (The membership year runs concurrent with the calendar year.)
- Jeff noted that he sees a credit card payment ending in #40 in the amount of \$62.32 for the annual fee for the FLWF domain name. He requests help to identify who made the payment.
- Marge Freund noted that the balance reflects the proceeds from the one-time sale of the conveyor trailer last year, so the balance is higher than otherwise would be shown.

The report was accepted as presented.

President's Report:

- Ed Mulkearn reported the lake water level was at summer level by March 1st this year. To date this year, the gate has only been opened once to maintain the prescribed summer level.
- Ed also noted that the engineer working with the Town of Mina on the sewer project reported that Findley Lake has been reclassified with the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) to a higher ranking which would impact the grant options and a zero percent (0%) rate for any loans.
- Ed stated the Town of Mina is the “lead agency” as the seeker to create the sewer district. The Town plans to forego a petition and go directly to a vote on the district formation.
- Ed also noted that he appointed Marge Freund as the liaison to the FLCF. She attended a preliminary meeting with Rebecca Brumagin and Larry Gross recently.

Committee Reports:

MEMBERSHIP:

- Lex Brumagin reported that the written membership letter is currently at the printer/ mailing company, Quick Solutions, and will be sent during next week.
- The board discussed posting a reminder notice on the website to encourage members to renew online. Ben noted that he could create an individual email for each member listed in the database he maintains.
- Chrissy Craffey suggested that the membership letter could be added via a link to the Tapestry newsletter.

COMMUNICATION:

- Ben Fergus reported that he has updated the FLWF logo on the website. Ben will forward the updated logo to Lex Brumagin for use in the membership mailings.
- Jeff Ireland inquired about replacement stock of envelopes with the FLWF logo. Ed will have 500 envelopes produced and distribute them.
- Chrissy Craffey reported that the buffer garden sign has been produced by the Chautauqua Conservancy from grant funding. She plans to place it in the garden area today.
- Ben noted that he will be posting weekly updates on the number of loads of harvested weeds, as he did last year.

- Marge Freund thanked Ben for his incredible efforts at managing the website and improving communication and interaction with the membership since he joined the board last year.
- Chrissy Craffey reported that the Tapestry newsletter is planned for online publishing every two (2) weeks.

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

- In the absence of Bill Bracken, Ed presented an update.
- Ed noted there are no maintenance issues at this time. Greg Brumagin will handle the mowing near the gazebo and wall.
- Chrissy Craffey noted that Chris Gleason will be working on weeding and mulching near the wall on the dam side of Main St.
- Ed inquired about spring cleanup around the Water Wheel building. Lant Lictus will check with Heath Reed about handling this task.

LAKE OPERATIONS:

- Lant Lictus reported the lake reached summer level very quickly this year.
- Chrissy Craffey inquired about decision-making on releasing water after rain events.
- Ed reported that three board members watch and closely monitor the level of the lake. The range is plus or minus three (3) inches from the specified summer level. There are several marks around the lake used in monitoring the water levels.
- The board discussed that the lake can handle a two (2) inch rain event without releasing water. Ed also noted that he has springs on his property which directly correlate to the water level in the lake.
- Lant also noted that he should be notified if debris is found which needs to be removed. Ben Fergus will post a notice on the website.

WATER QUALITY: (see attached report)

- Ed Mulkearn noted that the #1 concern on the Town of Mina survey is the lake quality.
- Marge Freund noted that the dam repair project completed in 2016 was a key to maintaining the lake quality, along with the regular harvesting of weeds.
- The board discussed that the most recent TMDL values are from 2008 are outdated and need to be updated. It is known that in Chautauqua Lake the internal loading of phosphorus is at 50%.
- Ed Mulkearn updated the board regarding the Buesink's creek inflow concerns. A meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 3rd with an engineer to further evaluate placement of a holding pond east of Route 426 near the McDonald/Freund properties.
- Findley Lake was approved for CSLAP participation in 2023. Ben Fergus will be trained at the NYSFOLA meeting and Chrissy Craffey will be trained in June to collect the samples. Jeff Ireland noted that he paid \$325. for the CSLAP participation for four(4) sample sets.
- Chrissy Craffey reported that she and Ben Fergus have drafted a response to Dr. Willard Harman et al. at SUNY-Oneonta regarding the graduate student lake management program. If Findley Lake were to be selected for inclusion, the partnership would not begin until 2024. Ben Fergus expects to meet with Dr. Harman at the upcoming NYSFOLA meeting.
- Ben Fergus noted he recently rode on the harvester as an observer. He has concerns about collecting the floating weeds on the lake. Ben noted that Chautauqua Lake has

additional equipment used to collect floating weeds near the shoreline which are not accessible to the harvester. As noted in the written report, Ben requests a motion to research this option.

- ***Ben Fergus moved to approve investigating, evaluating and obtaining pricing of equipment to collect floating weeds both in the boating lanes and along the shorelines. Lant Lictus seconded the motion. Without further discussion, the motion was passed.***

HARVESTER:

- In the absence of Matt Wise, Ed reports that the harvester is at the south end site on the lake bottom.
- Ed reported that Barry Hartel has accepted the role of lead harvester for this year. Ed reported that two (2) Clymer school students are interested in assisting. Any additional staff will be vetted for capability to operate the equipment.
- Ed also noted that beginning in 2025, New York will require a boater certificate to operate any watercraft. Courses are currently available online.

Unfinished Business:

UPDATE ON CLYMER SCHOOL WATER TESTING PROJECT

- Chrissy Craffey and Ben Fergus have met with Scott Neckers and Tim Johnson from the Clymer School regarding the testing program.
- Plans are being made to identify weeds and classify them as native or invasive species. Part of this plan is to fine-tune the growth cycle for the weeds in Findley Lake.
- Testing by the Clymer students will take place concurrently with the CSLAP sampling.

New Business:

- There was no new business.

Announcements:

- The schedule for Board meetings for 2023 is as follows: Meetings will be at the Water Wheel Overlook Building. The Annual meeting will be at The Camp at Findley.
Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 8:30 am
Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 6:00 pm (pre-annual meeting) at The Camp at Findley
Annual meeting Meet 'n' Greet at 7:00 pm
Annual business meeting at 7:30 pm
Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 8:30 am

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am to an Executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Freund
Secretary

Attachments:

Committee Report: Water Quality