Findley Lake Watershed Foundation

Minutes of Board Meeting

May 11, 2024

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am by President, Ed Mulkearn.

**Quorum**

A quorum was declared to conduct business.

**Present:**

Lex Brumagin (virtual), Chrissy Craffey, Ben Fergus (virtual), Jeff Ireland, Lant Lictus, George Mihalik, Erin Miller, Ed Mulkearn, Bill Simpkins and DebbieThresher.

**Absent:** Paul Fellinger

**Minutes:** The minutes from the regular meeting on January 20, 2024, were reviewed, with a couple amendments and were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

* Jeff Ireland reported that as of May 9, 2024, all bills were paid up. An additional $825.00 was added in membership. Another $2,000.00, was given online.
* George Mihalik asked Jeff Ireland about $65,000, what was that from? Jeff Ireland explained that is how much money was taken in membership so far this year.
* Jeff Ireland reported the disbursements for this year, so far are $17,749.00.
* Chrissy Craffey asked about the costs of the harvester in a year. Jeff Ireland reported that the harvester costs, run between $45,000-$48,000. That includes, fuel, maintenance, insurance, repairs, ect.
* Ben Fergus asked about the budget, how the harvester fits in overall? Jeff Ireland responded with clarification on how the budgeting process works.
* A big thank you to Shorty Horrocks, John Scwartz and Chuck Schneider for their donation of $6,000 for the beautification of uptown last year.
* Chrissy Craffey motioned to approve the treasurer’s report, 2nd was Lant Litcus, treasurer’s report was approved.

**President’s Report:**

* Ed Mulkearn shared that Jeff Ireland and he had a preliminary conversation with Erin/Brandon, (Findley Lake Marina owners), regarding their potential purchase of 65 feet of waterfront currently owned by the Watershed Foundation. It is currently being used by the Marina for the floating docks and gas line, with no cost to the marina. After a favorable conversation, Erin and Brandon (marina) will get back to them with their thoughts and decision.
* Erin Miller questioned, if they don’t want to buy would we ask for them to rent? Topic was put on hold, for further discussion with Ed Mulkearn and Jeff Ireland’s next meeting with Erin and Brandon. (Marina)
* Ed Mulkearn reported about a conversation with PJ Wendel, County Executive. He helped with funding for 2 studies, the study of sedimentary with Princeton Hydro. It will determine how much iron/phosphorus is on the bottom of the lake. Ben Fergus added additional information on what that means. The bathometric study is an accurate mapping of the lake bottom. The funding was $55,000 and the Town Board approved.
* George Mihalik gave a big thank you to Ed Mulkearn for his hard work in making this happen.
* Chrissy Craffey and Ed Mulkearn shared that on June 2, 2024, Chautauqua Lake will be hosting a Chautauqua Lake Symposium and will be talking about the environment, discussions with innovative ideas and actionable solutions. Some board members are going to see what they can learn, all are invited. More info on website.
* Ed Mulkearn and George Mihalik extended thank you to Chrissy Craffey and Erin Miller for manning the booth for kick -off of Bicentennial. A big thank you to Ben Fergus, Ben’s daughter, Chrissy Craffey and Erin Miller for the pamphlet very impressive and informative. There are pamphlets at Twin Docks and Alexanders.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:**

Lex Brumagen reported that as of now, there are 135 members signed up in the Watershed Foundation. Erin Miller asked how many new members, Jeff Ireland said 10 new ones. In this year, there are 20 online members that signed up. Let’s show more interest in our lake, Chrissy Craffey has decals to show your pride for Findley Lake, sign up and display your decal on your car or boat.

**Lake Management:**

**Physical:** Lant Litcus says the Lake is up and everything is good. Mother nature cooperated this year. If you have any floating logs or debris from winter, contact Lant Litcus and he will help to get rid of the drifters. Let’s keep our boats and boaters safe.

**Water Quality:**

* Ben Fergus and Chrissy Craffey talked about the herbicide, that will be launched in the North Cove, on May 30th. There will be samplings every 2 weeks starting June 2nd through August 13th. The sampling is done by the DEC. This is a town project not a Watershed project.
* Chrissy Craffey reported there is a new program with probes. She is reaching out to see if we can get on the list, to try it. More info later.
* Lex Brumagen asked is there any flexibility with herbicide date? In case, of lots of rain. Chrissy Craffey said it needs to be done by June 1st.
* Jeff Ireland asked what is the timeframe before water can start going out again? Ben Fergus said within 2 days.
* Lex Brumagen, Lant Litcus and Ed Mulkearn will monitor the water flow/water level.
* Ben Fergus mentioned to watch the website for any water restrictions.
* George Mihalik asked, what is the timeframe to see any visual results? Ben Fergus said up to 2-3 weeks.
* Chrissy Craffey reported the treatment will last 3 years, after that, some spot treatment could be needed.
* Ben Fergus and Chrissy Craffey went to a conference, look at website, they learned more info from others, information about lake management.
* George Mihalik thanked Ben Fergus and Chrissy Craffey for taking personal time and gathering valuable info to help us keep moving forward.

**Grounds and Buildings:**

* Bill Simpkins suggested with the Bicentennial this year, let’s try to do some freshening up around town. Some fresh paint on the anchor and buildings, and some gardening.
* Bill Simpkins asked for help with the flagpole in downtown. The pulley is stuck at the top. Lant Litcus and Ed Mulkearn will look at it.
* Chrissy suggested power washing the docks by the boat ramp and sidewalk.
* Erin Miller showed an example of a sign for the 3 dock spaces across from Alexander’s.
* Chrissy Craffey talked about possibly cleaning boat launch, wondering if marina would take on that job? Ed Mulkearn and Jeff Ireland will negotiate with Erin and Brandon. (Marina).
* Bill Simpkins asked if he could put the extra orange barrels on Watershed property? The board agreed.

**Communications:**

* Erin Miller suggested sending an additional mailing, it appears, the snowbirds did not receive the letter that was sent in January. Just a quick reminder about the Watershed Foundation. She had a sample of a postcard, very nicely done. Ed Mulkearn suggested sending it to the people who haven’t paid yet.
* Chrissy Craffey reminded everyone, if you have info, send to Erin to post online.
* Ben Fergus thanked Erin Miller for jumping in with both feet, helping with communication, and sharing her talents. (Applause)

**Fund Raising:**

* George Mihalik shared an idea of a fundraising possibility. He reached out to Mercyhurst rowing team for a possible donation. Possibly another time might be better.
* George Mihalik shared an idea with the Buffalo Bills involved. Selling raffle tickets for a package of 2 tickets to a game, parking pass, swag bag (hats, ect) and fan experience post game. Possibly selling raffle tickets at July events in town.

**Old Business: Strategic Plan**

* A Strategic Plan was discussed and committee heads were organized amongst the board members.
* #1 priority: Ben Fergus (chair)
* Consider the in-Waterbody Controls for Nutrients Report: alum usage/phosphorus release.
* #2 priority: Mrs. Brumagen/committee
* Consider the Town of Mina Stormwater Retrofit study and implement recommended study and. Implement recommended nutrient source controls for stormwater runoff.
* #3 priority: Lant Lictus (chair)
* Reduce nutrients entering the

lake from agricultural runoff. He will reach out to farmers.

* Chrissy Craffey suggested farmers,

educating people of town.

* Erin Miller suggested a Q&A session.

Ben Fergus suggested reaching out to Scofield Farms and Jackson.

* #4 priority: Chrissy Craffey (chair)

Buffer gardens and inform public of unhealthy water control.

* #5 priority; Lake level management: Ed Mulkearn chair
* Ed and Lant will work together on this.
* #6 priority: Lex Brumagen (chair)
* Dam safety.
* #7 priority: Muck Management (TBD)
* #8 priority: Jeff Ireland/Deb Thresher
* Review, revise, publish and post the Boating guidelines.
* Ed Mulkearn reminded every chair of Strategic Plan chairs to prepare a short presentation for the July 20th, Annual Meeting.

**New Business:**

* Ed Mulkearn moved to make Debbie Thresher a board member on Watershed Foundation. 2nd Lant Litcus, motion carried.
* Ed Mulkearn: resolution for support of alum. Voting online.
* The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.
* Next meeting at Wheel Overlook on June 22, 2024, at 8:30 am.
* Just a reminder, our Strategic Plan is the main topic at the Annual Meeting on July 20, 2024. All chairs have your committee report ready to present.

Respectively Submitted,

Debbie Thresher

Secretary