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**Findley Lake Watershed Foundation**

74th Annual Meeting

The Camp at Findley

July 20, 2024

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Ed Mulkearn, President. A quorum was declared present to conduct business.

**Welcome and introduction of Board Members**

President Mulkearn welcomed all in attendance to the 74th Annual Meeting. He then introduced the board members in attendance. Board members present were: Chrissy Craffey, Paul Fellinger, Ben Fergus, Jeff Ireland, Lant Lictus, Erin Miller, Ed Mulkearn, Bill Simpkins and Debbie Thresher. Absent board members were: Lex Brumagin and George Mihalik.

**Minutes of the 2023 Minutes Annual Meeting:**

With a motion from the floor, Mark Craffey and second by Terry Cascioli, to approve the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes. They were approved as is.

**Treasure’s Report:**

The treasurer’s report as included in the hand-out materials, had a couple of additions. Jeff Ireland reported, that grant money from Chautauqua County Bed Tax was $4,650.00 and changed to $50,000.00 since the full amount of the grant has been paid. The new balance is $57,624.00. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mark Crafffey and second by Terry Casciolo. Treasurer’s report was approved.

**President’s Report:**

Ed Mulkearn presented the president’s report (copy included in meeting hand-out materials).

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership:**

Ed Mulkearn reported in Lex Brumagin’s absence. The membership was up to 140 members and 11 permanent members. A total of 150 contributing members this year. Ed encouraged members to sign up online. An email may be used to update your personal information for the database.

**Lake Management:**

Lant Litcus spoke about the gear box at the gate. It’s in need of being replaced. He has ordered a new one and expects delivery in August. It will have hand wheel, attached for more safety.

**Building & Grounds:**

Bill Simpkins reported the flags have been replaced. The building needs some paint before the Bicentennial celebration weekend on August 9-11. The decking needs a little attention, too. We ate looking for bids on cameras to help with protection of the building.

**Weed Harvester:**

Paul Fellinger reported that the harvester has been serviced and is running well. A new shanty to house equipment and supplies has been purchased and is on its way. Hopefully, August 9th delivery. The lake looks good. Many members agreed!

Mark Craffey asked “what poundage of weeds have been retrieve compared to other years at this time? Year-to-dates we have removed about 155 tons of wet weeds compared to about 365 tons of wet weeds removed thru 7/23/2023.

**Communications:**

Erin Miller reported that she is keeping the website updated and trying to communicate with others.

**Fund Raising:**

Ed mulkearn reported for George Mihalik about the possible funding from Mercyhurst College. We are finalizing details for two raffles for NFL game tickets and on-field experiences. One raffle will be for a Buffalo Bills game and a second raffle will be for the Pittsburgh Steelers/Cleveland Brown game in December. Raffle tickets will be available at town functions like the Bicentennial and Harvest Fest. More info to come. Watch for emails.

**Rebecca Brumagin (Town of Mina Supervisor)**

Rebecca Brumagin gave updates o 3 topics. Sewer progress, DEC grants and other outstanding grants.

Rebecca is working with the comptroller’s office for District Formation Approval of the sewer. The public approved $26.1 million in construction costs. We received from the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Approval of 50% or $13.05 million. The Town received a 30-year loan at 0% interest from NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation. The Town also, applied to NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation WIIA (Water Infrastructure Improvement Act) which could cover up to 60% of the amounts not covered by other grants.

The Town also applied to DEC’s WQIP (Water Quality Improvement Program) for up to $10 million.

The Town is also looking into possible support for low-income residents. The Findley Lake Community Foundation has made a commitment of up to $100,000.00 to help low-income residents with sewer hook-up costs not covered by other sources.

The Town issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Engineering firms to design and oversee construction of the Sewer System. The town selected Matt Zarbo with Square Engineering.

Rebecca Brumagin talked about three DEC grants coordinating with Findley Lake Watershed Foundation.

1. Culvert Repair
2. Stormwater Retrofit-NYS Grant Submission by B&L Buesink”s Creek (Streambank Stabilization Grant) due July 31st/Report o Website
3. In Waterbody Controls for Nutrients-Chautauqua County. Sediment Oxygen Demand and a Bathymetric Assessment (mapping of water depth and the amount of accumulated unconsolidated sediment in the water). The Town was awarded a county grant of $49,500 for Princeton Hydro to conduct these studies. The Town is awaiting a contract from the County before contracting with Princeton Hydro.

Rebecca listed many other grants that are being investigate for the town of fi

Findley Lake. Lots of exciting things in our future. More to come.

Rebecca Brumagin handed out a brochure with information on the Bicentennial Celebration on August 9-11. Information of details on The Tapestry.

**Strategic Plan:**

Ed Mulkearn announced the Strategic Management Plan for Findley Lake and the Watershed issued in April 2024 and turned the meeting over to Ben Fergus with a slide presentation.

Copies of the presentation were provided to the attendees. The presentation will be posted on FLWF wesite.

The board member responsible for each of the specific strategic plans presented

the status and plans. They included:

* Rooted Aquatic Plant Management – Chrissy
* Reduce nutrients entering the lake from runoff from adjacent properties around the lake – Chrissy
* Aquatic Invasive Species Control – Chrissy
* Water Quality Health Hazards -County – Chrissy
* Understand current voluntary nutrient management plans to mitigate contributions from agricultural runoff in the watershed. Farm owner and County. Lant for FLWF
* Canada Goose Mgt. DEC Suggestions and Advice – Ben
* Prepare and implement “muck” management plan – Ben
* Lake Level Management – Ed
* Dam safety, integrity and maintenance – Lex (Ed presented in Lex’s absence)
* Communicate and promote New York Boating Laws and Regulations in the New York State Boaters Guide and the Town of Mina laws regarding the lake – Jeff

**New Business:**

Election of Board Members

Ed Mulkearn announced there are three (3) board directors up for re-election. Ed Mulkearn, Lant Lictus and Paul Fellinger. Ed asked if there are any nominations from the floor? A motion from the floor to close the nominations from Tim Graham and a second from Jack Hamilton. The nominations were declared closed. Without further discussion, the election of the slate: Ed Mulkearn, Lant Lictus and Paul Fellinger was PASSED on a voice vote.

Ed Mulkearn stated that the Board had agreed to add one more board member-increasing the total number of board members from 10 to 11. Note that the By-laws state that the number of board members shall be between 5 and 15. Ed suggested that the new board member was needed to fill the role of Communications Chair. Chrissy Craffey nominated Erin Miller and Ben Fergus seconded the nomination. Both Ben and Chrissy advocated for Erin to be elected telling how she volunteered and has contributed to the communications and marketing for the FLWF over the past year.

Nominations were closed and Erin Miller was elected by a voice vote of the members.

Ed Mulkearn announced that in the September meeting, the Board will elect officers of the board. The members are encouraged to submit their recommendations for board officers to the board.

**Adjournment:**

The business meeting was adjourned at 9;06 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Debbie Thresher

Secretary