HAMILTON LAKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors

August 8, 2017

Janet Albright called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following board members present: Janet Albright, Cathy Wagenknecht, Dennis Germann, Ron Abraham, Jim Wagenknecht, Linda Skelly, Ginny DeBrunner, Peggy Hayden, Valerie Fetters, Clint Nester, and Jan Biddle. Eleven board members. Pete Hippensteel, Guest Speaker and a few area lake residents were in attendance for a special presentation.

Pete Hippensteel gave a power point presentation regarding the water quality concerns of Hamilton Lake. Over the past 5 years, the Steuben County Lakes Council has taken samples in Black Creek, the largest tributary of Hamilton Lake. The past 2 years, samples have been taken from Fish Creek, a tributary of the St. Joseph River. May and June samples this year recorded increases in bacteria and phosphorus. Additional samples upstream were taken in an effort to pinpoint the source of contamination. Another round of samples was done in July. The combined test results indicate that livestock near ditches flowing into Black Creek and Fish Creek are a major contributor to high readings; however, there are other types of farming activities, wildlife, faulty septic systems, etc. that can play a role as contributors as well. Pete presented airial photos of nearby farming operations. The SCLC gathers information regarding the condition of area lakes. Their goal is to determine where problems exist and guide lake associations in seeking solutions. He said establishing communication with area farmers, the town, and county offices, such as the Steuben County Soil and Water District are important. The water test results are a concern and the goal is to prevent future problems.

Secretary’s Report: Minutes of the July 2017 meeting were approved as e-mailed. A motion was made by Dennis Germann, and second by Ron Abraham. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Weed spray this year, per Dennis’ analysis, of people paid equals 760 lots. Weed spray paid this year to date is $92,329.00 compared to paid last year at year end was $75,987.00. Poker Run income for business sponsorship of T-shirts and etc. was $9,925.00. A deposit was made this week for Poker Run income; however, not all expenses have been calculated. A complete report on the Poker Run will be available next month. Eight solar powered luminated buoys were purchased at a special price of $872.00/pallet ($109.00/each). Paid Aquatic Management $2,300.00 for water testing done last year and this year. Bank balance as of 7/30/17 was $262,183.00. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Jim Wagenknecht and second by Linda Skelly. Motion carried.

Membership and Communication: Face book postings included poker run, new buoys, and etc. All communication was positive, nothing negative. Web-site: Cathy talked about the Trine University Capstone Project. She is to contact Trine in November

Wildlife Control: Cathy talked with naturalist, Fred Wooley at the SCLC Annual Meeting regarding swans. Fred suggested we continue with current wildlife control. During the SCLC meeting, 78 swans were counted on Lake James. They also do an oil treatment of the eggs.

Weed Control: Scott Banfield was on the lake today. He was doing a general survey. There were reports of algae near Clarks Landing and one complaint in the Crystal Bay/Crystal Cove area. He was going to check it out. Clint will contact the SWCD and attend next meeting.

Grievance and General Welfare:

* Environmental Concerns: There are concerns regarding e-coli, phosphorus, and Black Creek erosion. The lake association will look into grant funding and future ideas.
* Buoys: Dennis would like to purchase another pallet (preference 12 buoys) of solar buoys at a cost of $109.00/each. A motion to do so was made by Jan Biddle and second by Clint Nester. Motion carried.

Legislative and Council Coordination:

* Hamilton Town Council: Jim attended their meeting. He presented the Town a HLA Membership Flag and a thank you. He asked about a leaf ordinance which they will look into. He also invited council members to tonight’s meeting for the presentation.
* Steuben County Lakes Council: Their annual meeting was August 5. This was a small business meeting/get together. Speaker was naturalist, Fred Wooley.
* 101 Lakes Trust: Topics include Calendar property, BZA, County Commissioners, and watersheds.

Old Business:

* Boat Poker Run: There were 1290 tickets sold.
* Raffle Tickets for Paddle Board: Sales are going well.
* Board of Directors: Need representative in District #1 to replace Dave Castor. Still need a representative in Districts #2 and #4.
* June Annual Meeting: Followed through with DNR questions.
* Fishing Tournaments: There are 4 lakes in Indiana that require a permit. To obtain a permit, the requirement at the DNR State level is to fill out all the paperwork and they will consider. The reason for looking into this is just to slow them down. It was suggested to look on the internet for Base Tournaments, obtain contact information and write a letter asking for a donation.

New Business:

* Date for Future Annual Meeting: It was suggested to designate “the third Saturday in June” for the Annual Meeting. A motion to do so was made by Jan Biddle and second by Ron Abraham. Motion carried.
* Summer Fest: Val and Rick Fetters volunteered to chair committee. Date: August 26. Volunteer sign- up sheet was distributed. Items needed: canopy-Peggy, tables & chairs-Jan, banner-Janet, 50/50 tickets-Dennis, containers- Janet, drawing- Peggy and Val.
* Certificates were given to the 3 members serving on the Poker Run Committee: Tonya Peters, Linda Calvin, and Jan Biddle.
* U-Tube Video: Hamilton Lake Poker Run.

A motion to adjourn was made by Peggy Hayden and second by Janet Albright. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Secretary

Linda Skelly