HAMILTON LAKE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors

August 11, 2020

The HLA Board met at the Hamilton Town Hall on August 11, 2020 with the following members present: Cathy Wagenknecht, Jan Miller, Cheryl Silverhart, Val Fetters, Peggy Hayden, Linda Skelly, Jan Biddle, Skip Markland, Karen Piekarski, Jayma Watkins, Toni Justice, and Janet Albright. Guests present: Rick Fetters, Gina Freer, Dave Price, and Jeanine Walker. Number in attendance: 12 board members, 4 guests, 16 total.

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

Secretary’s Report: Linda Skelly. Minutes of the July 14, 2020 were presented, reviewed, and approved. Motion for approval was made by Jayma Watkins and second by Jan Biddle. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Val Fetters. Income is slowing down. Income this month was $2,343.30 and expenses were $5,201.72. Ending bank balance, July 2020 is $479,935.02. Val reviewed the HLA banking procedures as follows: 1) Treasurer (Val) writes checks, 2) President (Cathy) signs checks, 3) Both signs bank statement/reconciliation. Motion to approve report was made by Peggy Hayden and second by Skip Markland. Motion carried.

Membership and Communication: Cheryl is helping with the membership. Cheryl continues to post “Did You Know” on Facebook. Karen created a PayPal Account. New e-mail address is: HamiltonLakeAssoc@gmail.com.

Wildlife Control: To date, still nothing has happened with the swan. Carl Voglewede spoke at the SCLC Annual Meeting regarding swan. Dave Price checked with the DNR regarding Goose Permit for next year; may file after January 1.

Weed Control: Cheryl Silverhart. Cheryl has been in contact with Debbie King (IDNR). She has had lengthy conversation with Debbie regarding our lake condition and sent a video of shoreline conditions. Debbie understands with how upset we are and is sensitive to the situation. Rod Eggen (IDNR) was here at Hamilton Lake today; however, no report yet. Cheryl and Debbie will set up a Zoom Meeting soon. The Zoom Meeting will include the HLA board members, a panel of lake residents, and Debbie King. The panel will express concerns and how the condition impedes/obstructs recreation, boating, and swimming. Debbie King will present her take and have a time of questions and answers with the panel. One concern Debbie has is that competitive exclusion of plant species can open up the bottom of the lake and allow breeding ground for other species, for example Starry Stonewort. Within 5 years, funding for treatment of Starry Stonewort is going away. That is some of the thought process. Our (HLA) data show that after fluridone treatment, our lake has rebounded. Possible dates for the Zoom Meeting are September 8 (regular board meeting) or September 15. The time will be 6:00 p.m.

Grievance and General Welfare:

* Environmental Concerns: There was discussion regarding the Koch Property on Lane 150 concerning dumping of weeds and grass. Cathy contacted ACRES Land Trust. A letter/brochure was written and passed out to area residents.
* CAFO and Water Quality: SCLC missed Hamilton Lake testing sites; this will be addressed.
* Buoys: Jim Wagenknecht is researching the buoy options. The big white buoys are no longer available. The company who produced the solar buoy was bought out. The tall no wake buoy now has a price tag of $207/each. Jim purchased 8 of the regular orange buoys that were remaining in stock.

Legislative and Council Coordination:

* Hamilton Town Council: Peggy. Meeting topics included: Town Hall flooring, teenager midnight curfew, all town police are being DNR trained, beach project (no new update), and Town attorney who also represents Crystal Bay/Crystal Cove.
* SCLC: Cathy. Annual meeting was really good. Carl Voglewede was a guest speaker. Water quality was also a topic of discussion.
* 101 Lakes Trust: Janet. Meet tomorrow. August is Annual Meeting. Topics include land preservation and small parcels.
* St Joe Watershed Initiative, Strategic Planning, and LED Sign: Nothing to report.
* Other: Peggy inquired about the Russell Point Trailer Park; how their weed spray dues are billed/paid.

Old Business:

* Flag & Decal Report: Update on who needs or who has extra flags.
* Middleton Property Update: Indiana DNR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working on who is responsible party.
* “Life is Better”: Cost is $350.00. We are not participating this year.

New Business:

* New Board Member: After discussion, Jan Biddle nominated and made a motion to accept Dave Price to the board. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
* Election of Officers: Janet Albright made a motion to keep the same slate of officers. All agreed and motion carried.
* Summer Fest: Cancelled.

Motion to adjourn was made by Skip Markland and second by Jayma Watkins. Motion carried and adjourned at 8:16 p.m. Next Meeting: September 8, 2020.

Secretary,

Linda Skelly