

Hamilton Lake Association
Board of Directors Meeting
September 10th, 2024

The Meeting was called to order by Vice President Jan Biddle at 7:00 pm.

Members present: Jan Biddle, Peggy Hayden, Val Fetters, Cheryl Silverhart, Jan Miller, Andrew Wappes, Jayma Watkins, Skip Markland, Janet Albright, Bill Chew, Stephen Schaaf, Mark Miner and Toni Justice

Guests present: Niann Lautzenhiser, Susan Catterall and Karen De Forest

Phone Vote from August 2nd was read by Peggy Hayden . Bill Chew made a motion to accept, Janet 2nd. Motion passed

Minutes from 8/13/24 were emailed to everyone. Cheryl made a motion to accept, Jayma 2nd. Motion passed

Treasurer's report was read by Val Fetters. Previous balance was \$ 592,811.39. No real activity this month. Ending balance \$ 592,813.95 Bill asked when does Star Bank CD mature ? Val will check into it. Jan Miller made a motion to accept report, Skip 2nd. All approved.

- **Membership**-Cheryl/ Nothing to report. Welcome bags will be updated as needed.
 - **Communication**-Stephen talked with Karen Piekarski about website. He has the credentials. He added some pictures, made some changes. The Wicks account which is in the system for the website is linked to Karen's credit card. We need to put a new credit card # in. Karen says there is a black binder with all the website info in it. Stephen has created a new Hamilton Lake Association FB page. We need to decide who will be the admins of this site?? All of the Board?? Stephen discussed with Karen regarding the Newsletter. She previously used Publisher, last year used Apple Notes. Stephen may use Canva.
 - **Vegetation and Wildlife**- Cheryl and Scott will meet with DNR in October. No date set yet. Cheryl has received several emails from people that were very upset about 'Crop chop'.
 - Skip- Carl came last week and removed 4 swans. The title for the trailer for the goose round up has been located by Jack Bireley. We will need to get a check for \$ 1500 for Chris Schaab for the trailer. Stan will work on the trailer once we get sale completed. Skip reported there are still some geese around.
- Lake Improvement/General Welfare**- Cheryl reported that we received a \$ 40, 000 Lare Grant for the Feasibility Study. Gary and Cheryl will meet with Nathan Thomas (DNR) on September 24th @ 9am to talk and discuss Letter of Intent. Need to put out 3 bids.
- **Buoy Boys**- Jan Miller discussed the removal of buoys. Date set is Tuesday 9/17/24. She sked for help with this. Mark Miner volunteered. Stephen volunteered Chuck Hamman. Jan noted that Bill Miller and Paul Hayden will be dropping out of this.

- **Government:** Town Council- Jan Miller stated that beginning in January 2025 the Town Council meetings will be televised and can be seen on YouTube. Phil Carper is a new member of the BZA. 'DORA' was discussed again.
- SCLC- Jan Biddle attended. Lake President Sub Committee discussed police officer patrol on the lakes. Meeting date not set yet.
- Gary met with Brent to discuss Police patrol on Hamilton Lake. No schedule set at this time.
- **CAFO**(Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation)- Niann Lautzenhiser, Susan Catterall and Karen DeForest
- Niann gave a very detailed report on the history of CAFO and Noah Schmucker. 3 barns on top of hill with large amount of cattle(over 1000 each). Manure not being contained. Runs into Fish Creek. Barrier they made was not successful. Violating laws. Government gives them 3 days' notice to remove the # of cattle. That gives them enough time to move them across the state line into Ohio. Ben Smaltz(Indiana Sate Rep) says there is no money at the State level to fight this. Will Howard(Steuben County Board of Commissioners) says there is no money at the county level to fight this either. Susan Catterall/Karen DeForest- working with Williams County Alliance and Lake Erie Water Keepers...discussed elevated Ammonia levels, Fish Kill. Schmuckers re-routing a regulated ditch, most likely will have to put it back the way it was. Fox Lake had a meeting and made a templated letter to send to the State regarding our lakes and CAFOs. Jan B will get this template so we can send our own letters. Fish Creek runs into the St. Joe River in Fort Wayne. Fort Wayne doesn't want to get involved because it means putting more chemicals in .Cheryl stated at this time the Ecoli is not out of line. E-Dna not being done anymore. Check the SCLC website for weekly readings. Only Black Creek comes into Hamilton Lake. Little Long Lake is closed.
- **Recap of 101 Lake Trust Reflections**-Janet/ Next Meeting is next Tuesday 9/17. Thank you notes will be sent out to those involved and / stipends(\$ 700-divided) will be sent out to restaurants who participated. Great Success!
- **Summerfest Recap**-Peggy – Thanks to all who made this a huge success!!! Income from Raffle was \$4195.00, with expenses totaling \$ 1094.24 which gives us a profit of \$ 3100.76 Bill made note of the gas siphoning going on around our lake. Police put something on FB for the people that have been involved to contact the Hamilton Police.

Skip made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Bill Chew

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hayden, Secretary