

SECORD LAKE ASSOCIATION
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
JULY 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am on July 17 at Secord Township Hall. Board members present were Phil Dast, Susan Morgan, Jeanne Ballor, Rita Lewis, Richard West, Tami Johanson, Mike Such and Greg Scharf. Guest in attendance included Joel Vernier (Secord Township Supervisor); Mike Szuch (Gladwin County Commissioner); and Karen Hoffman (Clement Township Supervisor).

BUSINESS

Minutes from the June 26 meeting were approved by motion. The secretary had no further report.

Treasurer's Report showed a balance in the General Fund of \$17,598.97; in the Secord Dam Fund of \$4,907.07. The amount of \$216.66 was transferred from the general fund into the Dam Fund; a few members had overpaid on dues, and they requested that the overpayment be donated to the Dam Fund. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded and passed. Bills were presented for Licensing Fee \$20; GoToMeeting \$192; and Golf Tournament Raffle Tickets \$43. Motion was made, seconded and passed to pay these bills.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Joel Vernier reported on weed treatment of the lake. Clement Township has joined Secord in treating the explosion of weeds seen on the lake this summer. If left untreated, they will become overwhelming and difficult to control. There are also issues with algae where water remains, and surveys are going out as to that issue. The township has a new website: Secordtownship.us. Joel expects further updates regarding trash removal this coming week.

Mike Szuch expressed support for RestoreTheLakes.org and asked SLA members to let their voices be heard.

Phil noted that he had tried to get someone from Lost Arrow to attend and update SLA members. No one appeared, so he will follow up.

Greg reported that Rivers Market has new owners. He has requested information from them regarding their plans and will keep us informed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Sue reported that there are now 204 members paid at least through 2021. About half are paid beyond year end.

Election: Jeanne reported that the annual election of Directors will be held at the August 21 Membership Meeting. The meeting will be in person at Secord Township Hall and will also be aired via Go To Meeting. However, voting will only be in person. Members who wish to vote must appear at the meeting. In order to vote, membership dues must be paid for 2021 no later than July 31, 2021. There are 3 positions to vote on. Tami Johanson and Greg Scharf are running for re-election; Another Director has decided not to run for re-election, so there will be a vacancy to fill. Nominations of anyone wanting to run may be made all the way through the meeting August 21. Both nominee and nominator must have paid 2021 dues by July 31. A member brought up a possible conflict with the ORV run the morning of the meeting. Secord Township and SLA were aware of this and do not believe it will create any problems. Another member asked about individual memberships vs family memberships. It was explained that each member is entitled to one vote. While a family membership gets only one vote, individual members of a family can get their own memberships

and each would have a vote. A question was asked if ballots could be obtained in advance for members who cannot attend the meeting. The answer was that no advance voting was possible; all voting would occur during the meeting.

Promotions: Rita reported on the SLA merchandise we offer for sale. The Committee hopes to have a membership drive and other events to encourage participation by the community. There is hope for a social event at Lost Arrow for members of SLA. Member Judy Boman added that Lost Arrow has received their liquor license, is currently renting rooms, and hopes to find staff so the restaurant can open. Judy also mentioned the Big Boys Club golf outing in August.

Fundraising: Committee members Jeanette Houser and Jenny Combs reported on the golf outing to be held Sept. 25. They are looking for sponsors, either businesses, families or individuals. The Gladwin newspaper will publish a list of all sponsors after the event. Information and registration forms can be found on the SLA website. Raffle tickets are being sold for the beer refrigerator at \$10 each. Golf is \$300 per team, which includes lunch and dinner as well as a silent auction including a gift card basket and a booze basket. Those wanting to support the event but not golf can buy dinner tickets for \$30.

Communications: The CommTeam presented a slide presentation about RestoreTheLakes.org. Tami reminded members to visit the website often, as the letters will be updated regularly as the process to pass the dam funding bill in Lansing progresses. The campaign now includes all 4 lakes in the Tittabawassee River system. This legislative funding would lower the costs to homeowners of repairing/rebuilding the dams. Ken Wells explained how the website works and how the letter-writing campaign will progress. The first letters that went out were to bi-partisan legislators, making them aware of the issues. The second batch of letters went to bipartisan legislators who sponsored the bill in Lansing, thanking them for their work and expressing our support. The next letters will be sent to members of the committee that is considering the bill presented to fund the dams. Other future letters will go to those involved in the permitting and approval process. Jeff Sorenson held up a large pile of letters that were printed and signed at the Eagles last Friday. He explained that the Team plans to have more letter writing events. Following today's meeting, letters will be printed for members who requested them before the meeting. Jeff emphasized the need for time, money and resources, focusing on the fact that any necessary permits will not be issued until FLTF can show funding for the repair/rebuilding and for dam maintenance. In its present form, the bill contains \$225 designated for our river system, which is more than the total costs estimated for the entire process. This would greatly reduce SAD assessments. FLTF has already accomplished so much, and they really need our support going forward. The present FLTF plan has our lake restored in 2024. Opponents of SAD will cause delays that may make that deadline impossible to meet. We need to make our voices heard.

FLTF UPDATE

Phil reported that engineering meetings are being held monthly. These meetings, which last several hours, are attended by numerous governmental agencies and representatives from FLTF and the four Lake Associations. He also advised that EGLE has indicated its support for the FLTF plan, which may make the permitting process go smoothly. Funding for moving forward with FLTF plan is short \$10m for next spring, so in addition to supporting the legislation in Lansing, FLTF is looking for funding to eliminate the shortfall. At some point, there will be a need to revisit the methodology for the SAD and get final approval of the assessment amounts. The flood studies and other studies are not completed. There remain some legal issues, mainly arising from the anti-SAD group. These legal issues could impact both the cost and the 2024 end date.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

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