

**Friends of the Eau Claire Area  
Annual Meeting  
July 16, 2016**

**Attendance:** 52 people were in attendance; including 36 members, and 2 new members

The meeting was opened by President Carl Heltne, presiding officer.

**Minutes** of the 2015 Annual Meeting. Secretary Barbara Possin announced that the minutes were distributed to members as they arrived at the meeting and were also sent in recent newsletter. She informed those present that the minutes were approved by the board on August 10, 2015.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Fred Haueter gave a report of the financial status and fund balances of the organization. Membership numbers and contributions have increased from previous year.

**President's Report:** President Carl Heltne reviewed our mission and asked Barbara Possin to review the strategic goals by explaining the organization's Strategy Map. President Heltne facilitated a review of the current priority activities of the FOECLA that include the Lake Ecology Education Program (LEEP), Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), Act55 which weakened local control of zoning laws related to protection of lake shore, and activity related to proposed change in the Town of Barnes Boat and Jet Ski Ordinance. Others contributed to this review as follows:

- LEEP, Cris Neff reported that an average of 30-36 7<sup>th</sup> graders participate each year.
- CAFO, Ted Eastlund reminded attendees that a handout was distributed giving an overview of the issues and threats to the environment with these large animal operations.
- Carol LeBreck, FOECLA liason to the Barnes Zoning Committee explained that Act 55 was passed by the Wisconsin legislature to eliminate NR115 which impacts zoning throughout the state and requires that county zoning cannot be more restrictive than levels set by the state, thus weakening county zoning laws put in place to protect lake shorelands. FOECLA is a participant in the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative which is working to reverse this legislation. A summary handout was available at registration table.
- Carl Heltne explained that Chapter 8, section 4 of the Town of Barnes Ordinance has been in place since the 1970s. In response to recent activity proposing a change FOECLA surveyed membership and found that 83% favored keeping the ordinance and 17% respondents desired a change. President Heltne forwarded the survey results and all comments to the Chair of the Barnes Town Board. To date no action has been taken by the Town Board.

President Heltne reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Beer Social for members was held June 26<sup>th</sup> and was very successful. FOECLA also provided financial support as well as member volunteers to serve as safety monitors for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Vatten Paddler event held July 9th. Barb Ronstad, chair of the event reported that there were 83 participants and 101 volunteers.

President Heltne also reminded those present of the educational event scheduled for August 20, 2016 which will focus on Wild Edibles.

**Nominations Committee:** Cris Neff reported for the Nominations Committee to propose Denny Scharlemann and Fred Haueter continue their terms on the board. Ron Carlson moved approval and Carol LeBreck seconded. Motion carried.

Nominations opened from the floor. There were none.

The business meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by Barbara Possin, Board Secretary.

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**Educational Event Following Annual Meeting;** Those present were divided into 5 groups. Each group visited one of the exhibits with the presenter and after approximately 10 minutes moved to the next exhibit, until all exhibits were visited.

**Exhibits and Round Robin Stations included:**

- **LEEP** (Lake Ecology Education Program)
- **Water Quality Committee**
- **Town of Barnes EMS Committee Information**
- **Aquatic Invasive Species-CBCW-Shoreline Monitoring, BAISS Boat** (Barnes Aquatic Invasive Species Siphoner)
- **Fisheries**

