

FRIENDS OF THE EAU CLAIRE LAKES AREA

Annual Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2021

Barnes Town Hall

Attendance: 47 people attended.

The meeting opened at 9:00 AM with a welcome by board member Anne Torrey.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting:

The minutes of the July 13, 2020 annual meeting were available to attendees at the registration table and had also been posted to the FOECLA website. The board approved the minutes on August 17, 2020.

Motion by Cris Neff to approve the 2020 annual meeting minutes. Seconded by Ingemar Ekstrom. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

A complete 2020 income statement (revenues and expenses) with budget information was available to attendees at the registration table. Cash on hand as of June 30, 2021 was \$68,154.94. Our cash on hand increased by more than \$14,000 in 2020 due to:

- Reduced program expenses during the pandemic.
- Rise in memberships.
- \$5,000 donation to the AIS Remediation Fund late in the year.

We maintained our 501(c)(3) nonprofit status, so contributions remain tax-deductible. Our revenue in 2020 was 65% membership dues and 35% donations. We ended 2020 with 285 household members.

Motion by Anne Torrey to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Wayne Kolberg. Motion carried.

Report from the Board of Directors:

- **Lake Ecology Education Program** – Board member Cris Neff provided an overview of LEEP activities during the pandemic. Work has continued to update learning module materials and plans are being made to resume classroom labs and field experiences with Drummond 7th and 8th graders this fall. Neff announced LEEP Coordinator Melissa Kjelvik would be moving in September, so a search will begin shortly for a new Coordinator. Neff expressed the board's appreciation for Melissa's excellent work.
- **Student Scholarship Committee** – Board member Marty Olson informed attendees that the 3rd annual \$1,000 FOECLA Student Scholarship was awarded to Kayla Schultz from Northwood High School. Kayla will be attending UW-Eau Claire this fall.
- **Citizen Lake Monitoring Network** – Board member Thom Storm discussed the clarity of area lakes and ongoing citizen involvement in monitoring lake water quality. He also explained and demonstrated the simplicity of a Secchi disk, and encouraged members to volunteer.
- **AIS Remediation Efforts** – Board member Cris Neff described three ongoing efforts to control AIS on area lakes and introduced the coordinator for each: shoreline monitoring (Ingemar Ekstrom), Clean Boats Clean Waters (Sally Pease), and the BAISS boat (Julia Lyons).

All three efforts are overseen by the Town of Barnes AIS Committee with financial support provided by DNR grants and FOECLA donations.

- **Shoreline Health** – Board member Jim Bakken explained two new initiatives undertaken by FOECLA to help preserve shoreline habitat and water quality: a volunteer lake level monitoring program using staff gauges, and participation in the WDNR’s Healthy Lakes & Rivers grant program.

Other Business:

- Board member Denny Scharlemann informed attendees that the 2021 August educational program has been cancelled.
- New communications tools have been launched in 2021: newsletter, Facebook page.
- The Douglas County AIS Strategic Plan was updated over the winter and approved by the County Board last month. FOECLA board member Jeri McGinley served on the committee that drafted the revisions.

Election of the Board of Directors:

The Nominations Committee recommended the re-election of the following directors for 3-year terms: Cris Neff, Marty (Martin) Olson and Jim Bakken. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion by Anne Torrey to approve the re-election of Neff, Olson and Bakken. Seconded by Thom Storm. Motion carried with no negative votes. Torrey encouraged anyone interested in serving on the board to contact a board member or leave their contact information at the registration table.

On behalf of FOECLA’s board and members, Torrey thanked outgoing board members Barbara Possin and Thom Storm for their years of service and dedication to the community.

Special Introduction:

Torrey introduced Boy Scout Candidate Nick Oblander and his father, Chad. Nick is in the planning stage for his Eagle project and said he is thinking about making bat houses and would like to work with FOECLA to distribute them to our members. Marty Olson is in contact with them and with members of the Eau Claire Lakes Conservation Club who have offered to help.

Adjournment:

Motion by Cris Neff to adjourn. Seconded by Terry Kolberg. Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by Cris Neff, Board Member

.....
Educational Event following Annual Meeting:

Presentation entitled “The Ebb and Flow of Our Lakes” was presented by Jim Bakken.

