

FRIENDS OF THE EAU CLAIRE LAKES AREA

Board of Directors Meeting

Barnes Town Hall

May 13, 2022

Members Present: Kevin Shriver, Mike Milliken, Marianne Paker, Anne Torrey, Cris Neff, Lee Wiesner, Marty Olson, Wayne Kolberg, Jeri McGinley, Katherine Stewart

Absent: Denny Scharlemann, Jim Bakken

Guest Present: Dave Blumer, LEAPS (Lake Education and Planning Services, LLC)

Call to Order: President Kevin Shriver called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM.

Minutes: Shriver presented the minutes of the April 8, 2022 meeting for approval. Motion by McGinley, 2nd by Olson to approve the afore mentioned meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: McGinley presented the Treasurer's report, accepted by consensus.

Standing committee reports:

Executive Committee:

The Executive committee met twice to gather information about proposed expansion of the Mooney Dam County Park and proposed Town of Barnes campground with the following updates:

- Shriver reported that additional information on the Town of Barnes campground is pending.
- Shriver reported that an article on the proposed expansion of the Mooney Dam County Park, originally published in Duluth News Tribune, was recently republished in the Bottom Line News.
- McGinley reported that a citizen's group has formed and is engaged with Douglas County on planning for the expanded Mooney Dam County Park.
- McGinley reported that the May FOECLA Newsletter will inform members about these and other topics in a brief section headed "Possible Changes on the Landscape"
- Olson suggested that FOECLA board members encourage citizens to contact their representatives for more information on these topics.

Information on a proposed private campground near Robinson Lake which is seeking a Conditional Use permit from Bayfield County was introduced by Neff. The Town of Barnes Zoning Commission met to review the project on Tuesday, May 10 with area citizens in attendance. A motion to advance the recommendation to the Town of Barnes at that meeting failed with a 2-2 vote. Publicly available information on the proposed project was shared by Neff and discussed by FOECLA board members. Members had concerns regarding potential environmental impact to area waters as Robinson Lake is part of the Eau Claire Lakes chain. Shriver will draft a letter for board approval to be presented by FOECLA at the May 17, Town of Barnes Board Meeting and potentially at the May 19 Bayfield County Zoning Commission meeting.

Water Quality:

Wiesner reported that Barb Clements will be the new AIS coordinator for the Town of Barnes taking over for Sally Pease. The Water Quality Committee will be focusing on four initiatives:

- Continue and possibly expand Secchi disc reporting
- Expand or gain back the number lakes having water chemistry checks, some of which were dropped due to DNR funding cuts.
- Continue to measure and report on area lake water levels
- Continue the Healthy lakes initiative for another grant period

- Work closely with the new AIS coordinator

McGinley asked to volunteer on this committee. There was broad discussion regarding possible expansion of Secchi disc initiatives and associated costs. Blumer suggested that budget for water quality initiatives is available as part of the AIS grant and requested that FOECLA report volunteer hours for AIS outreach activities. Wiesner highlighted several water quality topics, such as phosphorus impairment, that were shared with area citizens in prior years and could be shared again with area residents to raise awareness.

Membership/Outreach

Paker reported that a member-wide social event was probably not going to be planned for 2022 given community events already on the calendar but suggested that FOECLA presence at events like the Taste of Barnes and the Vatten Paddlar could be an effective form of outreach to area residents and non-residents alike regarding the mission of FOECLA. Kolberg reported that continued planning for the Taste of Barnes is underway and FOECLA will have an information table on Saturday, June 18 from 10-4. Olson reported that an information packet will be prepared and delivered to all Upper Eau Claire residents this summer. Stewart suggested using real estate transaction records to identify and reach out to those families new to the area. Torrey reported on potential new board candidates and requested input from board members regarding selection criteria. Paker presented a snapshot of current FOECLA members as compared to 2021. Wiesner noted that FOECLA members are often households which include multiple "members."

Education

Reporting of recent LEEP field activities was tabled due to time. Milliken reported on planning for the June 25, 10-11:30 Boating Safety event to be held at Tomahawk Park. Available board members are asked to be present at this event to help with set-up/take-down, to talk with attendees, manage the drawing for door prizes and to staff the welcome/information table. AV equipment is not available, but Neff will bring folding table, door prize tickets, fishbowl and water cooler to the event. Milliken is bringing door prizes. Paper cups are needed. A count of attendees is needed for grant reporting. A boat at the event is desirable.

Communications

Torrey reported on a successful first 'Did You Know?' (DYK) and imminent second DYK going out on Avian Flu, noting that DYKs are anticipated to be more informational in nature than Musings.

New Business

Consider giving printed placemats to area business highlighting safety topics such as boating, snowmobile, ATV safety.

Next meeting: Friday, June 10, 2022, 1:30 PM at the Barnes Town Hall

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Paker, Director