

TLPOA Board Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2021

Meeting Called to Order by President Tom Conquest at 8:30 AM at the home of John Jackson.

Attendees:

Board Members - Tom Conquest, Pat Kish (via Zoom), Bill Siegrist, Dominic Manzi, John Jackson, Tim Manganello, Judd Wellard, Karen Wilding. Special Guests – Michael Madden, Tom Page, Bonnie Page.

Meeting Minutes:

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the May 29, 2021 general membership meeting and the May 29, 2021 Board Meeting.

Officer Remarks:

Tom stated that he had posted various documents to the web site including the updated bylaws, aeration exhibits, May newsletter and presentation from the May membership meeting. Pat addressed a question regarding TLPOA memberships, stating that while the total number of memberships are down from previous years, the number of lake stewards are up and we have more money.

New Business:

- **Membership Drive**

Bonnie and Tom Page discussed the TLPOA's goals and objectives, which the board agreed are to increase the number of members, add board members, and increase funding. Bonnie and Tom said the TLPOA board has not taken an active role in attracting new members or board members for a number of years, and that we need specific actions and roles for volunteers to help. Bonnie has an excel file from the assessor's office of all property owners which can be used to update our records. Tom has reviewed the list which includes names and property/mailling addresses. The list can be used to send out information regarding the purpose and function of the TLPOA, and ask property owners to join. Tom and Bonnie recommend sending out targeted letters property owners depending on their status with the TLPOA. They feel that Lake Stewards provide a good source for attracting new board members. And they recommend we offer people opportunities for specific tasks and responsibilities which may also help attract new board members. They recommend actual letters be mailed versus emails and postings to our web site. Copies of any letters that are mailed can also be added to the web site. Bonnie also suggested we have a quality brochure created to place at various locations in and around Lewiston. Tim added that we should give these brochures to the area realtors to provide to their clients. Tom suggested we provide member information based on the property owner's street so they can see who in their area is already a member. Bonnie said we should also get back to doing in-person meetings which many people enjoy and bring their checks.

Michael Madden then provided his comments and recommendations. He feels we should focus on the benefits to property owners from actions taken by the TLPOA to protect our lakes. He recommended we provide information on the value the TLPOA adds. Bonnie stated we need 3 important things the TLPOA does that add value and help protect our lakes. Michael doesn't feel that mailers and emails work as well to attract new members. He recommended we consider having each board member be provided a list of property owners to contact in person to discuss the TLPOA and solicit their joining. He passed out examples of objections we may hear from property owners to joining, which we then discussed possible responses to. He also suggested we offer a discount off the dues for joining for 2-3 years versus one.

Tom summarized there are 4 things which need to be completed. 1) Updating the TLPOA membership database. 2) Assigning board members with responsibility to contact property owners to discuss the TLPOA. 3) Creating a brochure. 4) Creating an article to use for communication purposes.

Bonnie Page volunteered to chair a committee to work on a membership drive and Mike Madden along with John Jackson and Tom Conquest volunteered to be on the committee.

- **Lake levels**

Tom has received questions from property owners regarding the low water level on West Twin. Judd commented that someone had dumped rocks where the water flows from West Twin under Cobb Road to try to damn up the lake and block the drainage. He also stated the water level is not that low based on historical standards.

- **Gypsy Moths**

Based on comments from some of the board members it seems the county's spraying program had mixed results.

Old Business:

- **Aeration**

Tim said the new diffusers are working well and that their effectiveness is higher because they are located closer to the lake bottom than we have been able to accomplish in the past.

- **EWM**

Tom stated that we may have more EWM growth due to the low lake level. The contractor was just out to treat EWM. Sent us an \$1800 bill which may include more chemicals than in the past.

- **Water Clarity**

John said that based on Secchi disc observations, the clarity of East Twin is better than it has been since 1995 and is currently classified as oligotrophic lake. He feels the aeration is helping and the presence of Zoo Plankton that occur naturally in a lake. Also contributing to the water clarity are the drought we have experienced and the resulting improved performance of septic systems. John stated that Erick Elgin, a lake ecologist he has been in contact with, is an expert on lake clarity. Erick is willing to meet with us to further discuss this and help us understand the dynamics that impact water clarity on both lakes.

- **Social Events**

Karen stated that while we will not have a summer beach party this year, we will plan to have one in 2022. Karen also said that regarding a wine and cheese party this year, people that had previously indicated an interest in hosting have since declined. Bonnie suggested that we consider having it on a different date or change it to a general party or get together. It was also suggested that we still plan for an end of season face to face membership meeting and include a Zoom option, and hold the wine and cheese on the same date. Tom offered to host the party at his house and come up with a date.

- **Website**

It was suggested that we consider adding an electronic payment option for members to make their annual payments. The board said it would ask Mary Ellen if the web site could be updated to provide this.

- **Newsletter**

Nothing discussed.

- **By-Laws**

Changes approved during the May membership meeting and updated by-laws placed on the web site.

- **Retention Pond**

John Jackson feels the current retention pond is contributing to the water quality problems on East Twin and that it is also impacting West Twin because East Twin flows into West Twin. Data shows the water clarity in West Twin has not improved as much as other surrounding lakes over the past few years. John wants to get Midwest Glacial Lakes and the County Road Commission involved to determine what can be done to improve the performance of the retention pond. He was surprised by the published road commission's assessment of the retention ponds impact on our lakes and has yet to receive a copy of the report they referenced. He also intends to contact Samantha Ellis with Huron Pines to continue his discussion with her regarding this. He recommended the TLPOA donate funds to Huron Pines, which the board fully supported.

- **Septic Tank Ordinance**

Nothing new reported.

Go Around:

Dominic agreed to contact the Lewiston School to check availability for our August general membership meeting. Dominic also agreed to check with the library to determine if their conference room would be available for our July board meeting. Karen agreed to try and reserve the Lions Park pavilion for the next board meeting so we have some options on where to hold the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 AM. Our next scheduled TLPOA Board Meeting will be held on Saturday July 24, 2021 at 8:30am at the Lewiston Library.

Minutes prepared by Bill Siegrist