

Lake & Wildlife Executive Meeting (*revised)
Monday, February 3, 2025
Club Tamarack- Fireside Room

Call to Order: Brian called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

Roll Call: Present - Brian Vassar, Jim White, Denise McCabe, Carolyn LaHatte, Dara Sinclair, Calvert Huffines, Mason Holland, LuAnn Chambers, Miguel Rodriguez, Travis Bryan, Arty Allen

Absent – Rick Patterson, Elden Bonnette, Andy Kidd, Mary Ada Kidd

Visiting – Ralph Morse

Opening Reports:

Review and approval of December Executive Minutes: Denise made a motion to approve the December minutes, Miguel 2nd; all approved.

Review and approval of December and January Finance Reports: Denise distributed and reviewed the December and January Treasurer's summary, explaining there was no financial activity in January except for the checks that were written in late December which cleared in January. Carolyn made a motion to approve the December and January finance reports, Huff 2nd; all approved.

Partners Meeting Presentations:

February – 66 people in attendance (7 new) for Dr. Zia Siddiqi (entomologist) presentation on carpenter bees. Possibly have him return to speak on best practices for alternatives to rodent poisoning and to educate residents on secondary poisoning concerns using bait traps.

March - Miguel Rodriguez PowerPoint presentation; Brian to update the group on our mission and goals for the coming year.

April – Chris Feldt- whisky making history in the area

May – Mason - snakes

June – Mark Warren – medicinal and other plants

August - Andy – marble mines

September – (TBD)

October – (TBD)

November – (TBD)

December – Jim Pryor

Other Committee Suggestions – discussion about putting more information out about our trails...pictures, descriptions, directions to the trailheads, etc. to increase foot traffic; possibly get with our marketing manager, Taree, to put this info on the public section of the Bent Tree website.

Board Liaison Report – a BOD resolution was made to set up a sinking fund account for \$100,000 per year for dredging; future boards are not bound by this but would need to have a compelling reason for using these funds elsewhere. Estimates indicate that w/o dredging, the 3 coves will be full of silt in 8 years. The last dredging was done in 2008-2009.

Action Point: L&W dredging (ad hoc) committee needs to be established. Arty to research info on forming the committee. Members include Arty as liaison, Brian, Kevin O'Brien, and other L&W members or residents who have experience in this area. Ashley and Travis to be consulted on this. Also discussed costs, frequency of dredging, silt dams for the 3 coves, permits, leasing equipment vs. purchasing for Bent Tree to do the work, location for removed silt etc.)

BTCI – Travis – 205 10-foot logs were laid at Mulligan Creek. Stakes are in and the equipment has been removed. Most of the trees came from the area, others were brought from the quarry with Davids Tree Service cutting the logs. 101 volunteer hours were spent on labor. The equipment has been moved to Rocky Creek. Travis plans to start this project on Wednesday. Volunteers will lay logs and coconut fabric at Mulligan and Rocky Creek. New pet waste bags with visible dispensers and garbage cans will be installed in the community, making it easy for owners to clean up after their pets. Old ones have been discontinued.

Mission, Vision, Planning:

Beach Recreation area update - Rick and ad hoc committee moving forward.

Executive Team positions/organization plan for 2025 – Brian distributed L&W Organization chart for 2025. Brian and Jim to help Denise with Hanging Baskets Fundraiser in 2025. (Mary Ada plans to return next year to oversee this area.) Deb White to attend executive meetings when needed regarding Tamarack Treasures. Fundraising position remains “open.”

Vote on new Committee Chairs – Huff made a motion to approve Jim White to replace Rick Patterson as co-chair of L&W, Mason 2nd; all approved.

Huff made a motion to approve Miguel Rodriguez to replace Elden Bonnette as L&W Wildlife chair, Mason 2nd; all approved.

Denise to follow up at bank to add Jim White and remove Rick Patterson from L&W checking account.

Arty to present new L&W members, with these minutes, to BOD for approval. Carolyn suggested plaques or awards for those leaving the Committee, and Art who is leaving Bent Tree. Carolyn following up on a photo album for Art.

Budgets 2025 – Denise distributed and explained the detailed draft budget for 2025.

Since several of our members bring their own personal tables to our events, the team suggested we purchase an additional 8 tables, bringing the cost up to \$2,000. Brian to inventory the existing tables to confirm how many are needed and adjust the budget accordingly.

Denise to adjust the Administration & Events and Tamarack Treasures line items on the 2025 budget that was discussed at the meeting. Budget then to be sent out for Executive Committee approval.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Wildlife – Miguel to meet with Elden. Priority on keeping the deer herd healthy. Wood duck boxes will need to be cleaned out.

Trails/Hiking Club - Mason reported the orange trail is almost complete. The hiking club will hike one, two, or all the Chestnut Cove trails next week. Benches were purchased in December and will be installed once the orange trail is complete. Blazes, signs, and trail map are all in place.

Special Projects – Expand Denny Ridge side parking with gravel. Sallie Doss/Rainbow Bridge has been repaired and should last another couple of years. Posts need to be in contact with concrete, not the ground.

Fundraising – Brian to investigate position leader further. Hanging baskets will be handled by the group. Plant orders to be sent in by March 11, pick up April 10. Order forms out by Friday, February 7. Tamarack Treasures will be handled by Deb White and her volunteers. Donations will be accepted beginning Monday, April 21; sale on Saturday, April 26 from 3-9 pm along with BTAC event. Sunday, April 27 half-price sale. Denise will coordinate the Whispering Springs event in April.

KBTB – When beginning the cottage landscaping, keep in mind that the dog runs will be built on the side area of the shelter. Any questions, see LuAnn.

Habitat Conservation – Dara and Travis to meet at the spillway to determine options for controlling the briers along the creek side. Dara putting final touches on projects for habitat education, planting, and plant sales.

Communications – Teresa Hoppe to help Dara, Deb, and Brian with updating of banners and email blasts. Seven Newcomers attended the meeting and were given a L&W coffee cup as a welcoming gift. Brian continues to work on New Resident handout.

Lakes and Streams – installed a total of 38 habitat structures and 100 plastic tree habitats in the lake, completing what the biologists recommended to increase the food supply for the fish. One problem is there are too many small (14" or less) fish and spotted bass (over aggressive fish) in the lake. Huff has contacted the Pickens County HS coach about having the fishing team come to the lake to help remove the overpopulation of fish.

Stream work numbers continue to be good; even with all the work that has been done on Mulligan. On a side note, word has gotten out in the community about the great job that our L&W adopt-a-stream team continues to do in our neighborhood. Brian has been contacted by a couple of individuals about our adopt-a-stream program, with one member in Big Canoe even requesting to come to one of our partners meetings.

Special Events – LuAnn to check with Elden to set a date for the fish fry and get it on Admin's calendar. Elden and his team have agreed to cook the fish again this year. A co-chair is needed for this event to organize the other duties of the fish fry; decorating, grocery shopping, supplies, etc. LuAnn and Dara are to write up co-chair responsibilities and send out to partners.

Sunshine – 6 cards were mailed in December (2 sympathy and 4 get well cards)
3 cards were mailed in January (2 sympathy and 1 get well card)

Membership Support – almost 2100 L&W volunteer hours were logged in 2024!

Adjournment: 5:55 pm