

Lake & Wildlife Executive Meeting
Monday, March 3, 2025
Club Tamarack- Fireside Room

Call to Order: Brian called the meeting to order at 3:39 pm.

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

Absent – Rick Patterson, Calvert Huffines, LuAnn Chambers

Opening Reports:

Review and approval of February Executive Minutes: Andy made a motion to approve the revised February minutes; all approved.

Review and approval of February Finance Report: Denise distributed and reviewed the February finance report. The ending checkbook balance was \$10,782. Carolyn made a motion to approve the minutes; all approved.

Partners Meeting Presentations:

March - Miguel Rodriguez's Spring presentation-humorous and well received

April – Chris Feldt- whisky making history in the area and book signing

May – Mason - snakes

June – Mark Warren – medicinal plants and book signing

August – Bill Cagle, History of Marble-The Road to Georgia Marble

September – (TBD)

October – (TBD) Jim to contact Michael Corey re: Firewise presentation

November – (TBD)

December – Jim Pryor

Board Liaison Report – The Board has set up a sinking fund of \$100,000 for dredging and is set to add \$100,000 every year for this project. Note that this could change in the future depending on the current board.

Other items of interest – Brian stated that a few members of the Big Canoe hiking club would like to hike our trails, and they would reciprocate. This would be done by calling them in as guests to security.

Mission, Vision, Planning:

Beach Recreation area update – Rick is working on this project. Refer to his March 3rd email that he sent to the group.

Budgets 2025 – Denise distributed an updated budget for review and explained the \$1,800 correction. By removing the Denny Ridge parking pad expense plus unbudgeted revenue from the sign renewal program, this enables the projected year-end balance to remain at \$7,800.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Wildlife – Deer appear to be pulling together in herds. Geese are now active. The duck houses are in good repair. The turkey population is still active. Dara mentioned that seeds have been purchased and sown in green space areas near the dam and spillway to help the deer and turkey habitats.

Trails/Hiking Club – orange trail is complete. The hiking club hiked all the Chestnut Cove trails last week. Mason is writing an article on the new hiking trails for The Echo magazine. Mason and his team will scope out a connector trail from Big Stump/Eagles Rest to the orange trail for a possible fall/winter project.

Leaves have been blown off the Denny Ridge trail. This trail needs to be blazed. Travis recommended this would be beneficial in case of injury or emergency so staff would know exactly where to respond. Recycled plastic benches with backs will be on viewing areas, and backless benches placed on upper remote trails. Directional signs will be placed on roads for easier identification of trail heads. Trail workday will be April 5 at Sally Doss to remove mold on decking/rails, and mulch spreading. Jim is reviewing the trail sign renewals. Four have agreed to renew, one will not be renewed, and some are pending.

Special Projects – Denny Ridge side parking and Sallie Doss Bridge projects have been removed; with the exception that Mason may replace some of the posts by the SD bridge.

After TT, the committee will revisit the purchase of banquet tables to replace the five 8-foot tables and one 6-foot table that are not usable.

Fundraising – Tamarack Treasures – ideas are needed for “specific cause” items for shoppers who wish to make a monetary donation to TT. ie) benches for trails, supplies for streams, seeds or plants for habitat conservation, etc. Suggestions included limiting the contributions to 6-10 items with a box to check what you would like your donation to support. Display photos of past ways L&W money has been spent so shoppers could see the work that this fundraiser has supported in the past. Please give ideas to Jim so he can forward these to Deb ASAP.

Hanging Baskets – flyers have been distributed, and communications have been in the Echo and Friday News. The deadline to purchase is March 11, and pick up will be at the Cottage on April 10.

Whispering Springs – event will take place on May 2 and 3. Volunteers needed.

KBTB – Spring planting will take place on Friday, May 2.

Habitat Conservation – Natural Gardening Program – L&W to partner with BTCL, \$10,000 to implement “best practices” within our community. Items discussed included working with the pest company, eliminating bait boxes, firewise landscaping, mosquito control, carpenter bees, and use of yellow lights outdoors. Dara and Brian to meet with Ashley and Junior to discuss these items and their implementation first within the administration and then with the homeowners.

Tamarack Treasures – Theme is “Do no harm.” To be held at the fireside lounge with plants from the Chattahoochee Nature Center for purchase outside, along with interactive educational opportunities. Dara to create a purposeful natural landscaping brochure for distribution. Alicia to lead the fine arts portion of TT.

Communications – Ongoing.

Lakes and Streams – Brian reported for Huff the goal is to get the smaller fish out and add more variety of fish and habitat to the lake. Streamwork in February was good. Brian and Ashley to review efforts on Mulligan streambank work after the storm to determine next steps. Brian to meet with Paul from Aqua Scapes to help determine a solution for the Mulligan restoration. Brian, Buddy, Arty to meet with Ashley on Friday to discuss the dredging project.

Special Events – still searching for a co-chair for this position. The next event will be the annual fish fry.

Sunshine – 1 sympathy card was mailed in February.

Membership Support – no report.

Adjournment: 5:18 pm