

Lake & Wildlife Executive Meeting
Monday, June 9, 2025
Club Tamarack- Fireside Room

Call to Order: Brian called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.

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

Absent – Andy Kidd, LuAnn Chambers

Visitors – Buddy Creef, Ralph Morse, Lisa Crow and Will Jackson (Big Canoe Black Bear Project)

Opening Reports:

Review and approval of May Executive Minutes: Denise made a motion to approve the May minutes; all approved.

Review and approval of May Finance Report: Denise distributed the May finance report. Revenues from Whispering Spring Day and trail sign renewal project totaled \$1,093.35. Expenditures were \$1,643.70 for an ending checkbook balance of \$20,131.43. Carolyn made a motion to approve the May finance report; all approved.

Partners Meeting Presentations:

June – Mark Warren – 71 people in attendance including 12 new people. Medicine from the forest – must be able to make a positive ID on the plant – examples of Red Maple, White Pine, Flowering Dogwood, Sassafras, Pipsissewa, and Jewelweed. Successful book signing afterwards. Possible return to lead a group through the forest.

July – no meeting, Youthfest.

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

September – Fire Safety-Michael Corey

October – Deb-Job fair volunteers; Miguel to speak to Ken T. about a “bear speaker” for Oct or Nov

November – Miguel-fall presentation, and/or Erosion Control Education

December – Jim Pryor

February/March 2026 – Mason to contact the “snake man” for another presentation to our members

Board Liaison Report – Arty reported that the board approved 5 lot combinations and the Community Garden was also approved. 53 homes will be built at Creekside if approved. The deadline for voting is June 30th.

BTCL – Travis – the new diving board has been installed and ready to go.

Mission, Vision, Planning:

Living with Wildlife communication – Buddy Creef – discussed possibly resuming visits to residents by L&W members and BTAC reaching out to newcomers to educate them on how to successfully live with our wildlife neighbors.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Wildlife – two residents from Big Canoe attended our meeting to share their “Black Bear Project” education program with us. (speakers from DNR; monthly bear articles...what’s happening now; how to be a “bear wise” guest; bear proof trash containers; selling merchandise-decals, magnets, t-shirts, etc. to raise money for bear education)

Discussion also centered around increasing fines for feeding wildlife, limiting the use of bird feeders to only the months of December, January, February, and possibly having someone specialize in Bear Wise practices.

20-30 feral hogs were sighted on Denny Ridge recently!

Trails/Hiking Club – working toward a solution with homeowner to reopen the Forever Memorial Trail. The hiking club's next outing will be next Saturday to Eagles Rest.

Trail renewal signs – two signs are available for renewal-both are on Denny Ridge.

Fundraising – Deb White to attend executive meeting to discuss changes and new ideas for the fall Tamarack Treasurers sale.

KBTB – Our Smoky the Bear vintage sign (just past the Admin Office) will be taken down temporarily to be restored by one of our local artists.

Ten Community Garden raised beds are almost sold out. Rental cost is \$60 each per year. Began monitoring water quality at the quarry. Contact Kim Stewart with any questions.

Habitat Conservation – Dara to send a link for an alternative website for L&W content to executive committee and board members.

Communications – Miguel covers the Wildlife Wednesdays, the Friday News, and monitors L&W banners while Dara oversees social media for L&W.

Lakes and Streams – looking for a cost-effective way to dredge three prime areas of Lake Tamarack. Kevin O'Brien located a \$100,000 machine that will take the silt out of the lake. The next step would be to test the machine here to see if it works and get GM's approval.

The streams are low but moving and the water quality remains good.

Pellets have been placed around the beach area to prevent leaches.

Special Events – June 11 fish fry was cancelled.

Sunshine – two get well cards were mailed in May.

Adjournment: 5:41 pm