

Lake & Wildlife Executive Meeting
Monday, August 4, 2025
Club Tamarack- Fireside Room

Call to Order: Brian called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm.

Roll Call: Present - Brian Vassar, Denise McCabe, Carolyn LaHatte, Mason Holland, Miguel Rodriguez, Andy Kidd, Calvert Huffines, Travis Bryan, Arty Allen

Absent – Jim White, Dara Sinclair, LuAnn Chambers

Opening Reports:

Review and approval of June Executive Minutes: Andy made a motion to approve the executive committee minutes from June; all approved.

Review and approval of June/July Finance Report: Denise distributed the June/July finance reports. The ending checkbook balance as of July 31 was \$19,238.99. L&W covered \$253.02 to make up for the shortfall for the Community Garden project. Andy made a motion to approve the June/July financial report; all approved.

Partners Meeting Presentations:

August – 91 people (including 12 new members) attended Bill Cagle's History of Georgia Marble presentation. Bill gave an excellent presentation and sold all his books!

September – Fire Safety-Michael Corey; Miguel to contact Jim White regarding the presentation.

October – Miguel will hold a Fall presentation and Deb White will present a "Volunteer Job Fair" for Tamarack Treasures.

November – Dara to present "Homeowner Natural Habitat Certification for Residents" program; Mason to contact Dara to determine if the snake presentation will be needed.

December – Jim Pryor's annual year-end review.

Board Liaison Report – Arty reported that the GM sent out an RFP for an outside marketing effort to "brand" Bent Tree; the goal being to increase the number of homes being built in our community. A leaf machine (built to order) has been purchased but has not been delivered yet. This is a self-contained unit that will be pulled behind a vehicle. The bird feeder issue was not addressed at the Board Meeting and will stay the same. A change in the firearms rules and regulations was passed by the Board, increasing the fine from \$100 to \$1,000 per violation.

BTCI – Travis – Geese continue to be a problem. Miguel to consult with DNR regarding this issue. Travis met with Rick Patterson regarding the renovation of the beach area. Rick discussed building a 20' x 20' stage with a railing at the pavilion so concert bands can play toward the beach area instead of on the beach. Need Rick to submit a proposal for this by September to be considered in the October budget. New swings will be in next year's budget.

Mission, Vision, Planning - Brian and Jim will be preparing the 2024 annual report for the Board due by August 22nd. They will also prepare the funding request needed for approval by the Board for 2026. **Please sent to Brian any large funding that will come from the Board for 2026** (and not in our internal budgeting) **by August 19th.** Huff mentioned the fishery funding for \$10,000. Brian and Jim need any other funding from each chair that is outside the internal budget. Let them know what dollar amount is needed and for what purpose.

2026 Co-chairs, committees – please send any requests to Brian that you need for 2026.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Wildlife – There have been an increase in the number of bear complaints. Miguel is considering holding a bear awareness workshop to address this issue.

The annual deer count will be held in the fall.

Trails/Hiking Club – Travis cleared the area on the Beaver Run Trail where a tree fell on the newly installed bench.

Memorial Garden Trail – an area land property swap will be proposed to the homeowner in September to try to save the trail.

Sallie Doss bridge – repairing the bridge should be sufficient to extend the life of the bridge for another 5-10 years.

Trail renewal signs – all the signs have been renewed. May be able to add more trail signs on the Chestnut Cove trail in the future.

Special Projects – Youth Fest – L&W sponsored 7 classes for this event.

Powerline maintenance – Jim is working with Ashley to mark the trees that will need to be taken down with the chainsaw by Amicalola EMC.

Fundraising – Tamarack Treasures Holiday Edition is scheduled for Saturday, November 8th from 9:00-2:00 pm and Sunday, November 9th from 1:30-3:00 pm. Donations will be collected on November 3rd, 4th, and 5th from 10:00 to noon.

KBTB – Andy reported that the fire department needs another pump and is looking to purchase an opaque water tank to replace the existing one for the community garden. All 10 community raised bed gardens have been rented. Andy proposed that we add five new beds for fall planting. Carolyn made a motion to approve the addition of adding five new beds to the community garden: all approved.

Smoky the Bear Fire Warning Sign has been restored and painted by BT artist Beth Leonard.

The Cottage will receive some landscaping this fall after the reopening.

Save the dates...Sunday, November 2nd...Fall color annual planting; Saturday, November 22nd...Annual outdoor holiday display installation.

Habitat Conservation – fall hemlock treatment potential dates are October 25th, November 1st, November 15th.

Dara made 3 mineral stumps at upper Sallie Doss. She would like to do more at the beach area between the pavilion road and parking.

Plans to purchase \$600 worth of high-quality native flower and grass seeds to add to new and existing habitat areas.

Walk the talk with BTCl – rodent control is in place. Thanks Dara.

Communications – Wildlife Wednesday has been very successful. We have also had an increase in residents at our partners meetings. Thanks Miguel.

Dara has created a second invasives article for the Echo. Invasives never take a day off...so a Kudzu removal date has been scheduled for September 6th.

Social media – If anyone wants to be a blog writer to create content, let Dara know. Dara will launch and communicate more about habitat yards soon.

Lakes and Streams – Sallie Doss fish feeder is back on-line and working well. Huff is considering going to “sinking food” next year to prevent the geese from dumping the food. The geese are still a problem!

Although the water level is low, the stream work and chemicals are normal, and PH is normal with fair to good MACRO. The habitat for the streambank is good also.

Silt project/dredging – The team is continuing to investigate an option for removing the silt in our lake (it is cost prohibited to spend a million dollars for a one-time dredge.) Purchasing a machine to remove the silt is an option that L&W has been discussing with Ashley. Brian and Ashley will meet tomorrow to discuss the feasibility of this purchase. (items to consider: storage area for the machine; manpower and labor costs of this venture; where to dump the silt; the size of the 3-4” hose-items getting stuck inside; need of a booster pump; cost of silt bags; cost of Rip Wrap; need of larger silt ponds; permit from EPA, etc)

Special Events – Brian has spoken to Karen Feehan who has shown an interest in the Special Events chair position.

Sunshine – 4 cards were mailed in June (3 get well and 1 sympathy.) No requests for cards were received in July.

Membership Support – YTD 1,337 volunteer hours!

Adjournment: 5:02 pm