

Lake & Wildlife Executive Meeting
Monday, August 5, 2024
Club Tamarack- Fireside Room

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

Roll Call: Present - Brian Vassar, Rick Patterson, Denise McCabe, Carolyn LaHatte, Dara Sinclair, Elden Bonnette, Mary Ada Kidd, Arty Allen, Sandra Stewart

Absent – Mason Holland, LuAnn Chambers, Andy Kidd, Calvert Huffines, Mary Jane Rizzuto, Travis Bryan

Opening Reports:

Review and approval of June Executive Minutes: Elden moved to approve the June minutes as published; all approved.

July Finance Report: Denise presented the July Treasurer's Summary Report with an ending checkbook balance of \$12,957. It was discussed to break out a line item for fish fry and one for Holiday party going forward. Arty asked if there were any requests for BTCI in 2025. \$5,000 for fish (Rick to confirm this with Huff). Brian moved to approve the July finance report; all approved.

Partners Meeting Presentations:

August – Lori Forester-Adopt A Stream Monitoring; 42 in attendance (could be due to recent storm damage clean up). Good presentation; knowledgeable/soft spoken, available for questions.

September –Wildlife: Elden will explain the deer count procedure and how it is done; update on UGA wildlife survey (Shane to meet with the focus group at BT later this month to give his report-no recommendations from UGA but DNR may have some suggestions).

October –Paul Slovisky (who conducted the lake sediment survey) will speak on silt effects and discuss dredging options.

November – Chris Feldt- Moonshine History around Bent Tree

December – annual presentation-Jim Pryor

Board Liaison Report – welcome Sandra Stewart our new L&W Board Liaison. Sandra reported that effective September 1st, BT gift cards will be available for purchase. The Tavern will be returning to the model of having one manager and he will report to Taree. There are currently 37 homes on the market and 57 lots available for sale. A town hall meeting will be held on August 22 at 6:30 pm to discuss proposed CCRs and other updates. Red evacuation signs have been installed in the community.

BTCI – Travis has been occupied with pool repairs, downed trees, and other related storm damage. Beach access to pavilion and dock will be next on the list.

Mission, Vision, and 5-year Plan – Rick and Dara have been working on Habitat Conservation (trees, streams and animals). They are determining how best to structure and communicate this to the community. -Mission-beach recreation area. Vision-see **Lake Survey** which is copied under **Lakes** section of the minutes.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Fundraising – Mary Ada to step down as co-chair after the November sale. Deb White has agreed to co-chair Tamarack Treasures.

- Going forward, there will be two Whispering Springs volunteer days (spring and fall.) Denise McCabe will be the contact for these events. The next event will be held on September 13 and 14.

-There will be a Hanging Basket fundraiser in the spring. We need someone who would like to oversee this. (Possibly moving to on-line orders only; volunteers would only be needed for distribution.)

-Tamarack Treasures Holiday Edition one day sale will be held on Saturday, November 9 from 9:00-2:00 pm. (With Sunday, November 10 half-price sale from 1:30-3:30 pm; staff preview at 1:00 pm; and Monday, September 11 pack up/thrift store donation.) Tentative schedule for collections beginning Monday, November 4-7 from 10:00-11:00 am at Club Tamarack. Friday, November 8 complete set up for sale.
-Many thanks to DeEtta Daily, Cathy and Mike Daly who have graciously stored Tamarack Treasure items in their homes all these months!

Wildlife – nothing unusual, plenty of healthy deer and bears. Geese have not been an issue. No new sightings of feral hogs.

Lakes – Huff requested there be a change in our fishing policy since there have been incidents of people using panfish to catch larger fish in our lake. Our fishing policy will be amended to read as follows: It is against L&W rules to utilize any panfish (bream, bluegill, redbreast etc.) as bait to catch other fish. Panfish harvest limits of two per person are strictly enforced. Rick made a motion, Brian seconded, all approved.
-Huff to update signs, documents, and website.

Lake Survey

Based on the Vision Survey taken in mid 2023, the Lake and Recreation area was considered one of our top community assets. An ad-hoc committee was formed by request of the Board of Directors to develop a 5-year plan for this area. The main purpose of this exercise is to ensure anything done in this area fits into a long range plan.

The committee is asking input from the community for things that need to be improved, added, or changed in any way. All suggestions will be reviewed and considered for necessity, wish, community impact and of course cost (initial and long-term maintenance). We are taking suggestions through September 15th.

The area we are including is from the dock on Sally Doss around the lake beach area to Boat Storage.

We are asking for any input you would like to submit. Committee members are Andy Kidd, Dave Stewart, Kim Stahlman, Art Tippet, Ashley Brownell, Travis Bryan, Kevin & Deanna Griffin, and myself.

Please email any suggestions you have to me at peepa3352@gmail.com or let any of these above know. Rick Patterson

Streams – stream work-levels good, PH down but still in range

-Silt project, Mulligan Restoration/Alpine Runoff – streambank is deteriorating on Mulligan-goal is to repair this like the Coffee Cove area. Brian to get with Mason on the smaller trees that can be taken down and used to line the stream bank. Also work on two ponds on the golf course which are full of silt.

Special Projects – Chestnut Cove parking railing – Rick and Art to complete. Need to put up two more sets of rails and put in parking areas.

-Admin Building basement lower basement door cement pad/walkway – Rick to ask Deb if she wants to proceed with this. (delegate to Travis as BTCI project?)

-Remaining work at Sallie Doss stream – stream bank caved in from recent storms. Unsure how to proceed with this project. Brian to review area.

-Trail work at walk to dock at Lake Pavilion with Building & Grounds – trying to eliminate this as a walking area.

Special Events – fish fry went well; Partner’s meeting went well but need a new outlet box? for coffeepot (Brian to communicate issue to LuAnn)

-purchase of banquet tables – our request to have BTCI cover the cost of the purchase of 10 new banquet tables was denied. Action item: Rick and Brian to assess the condition of the existing banquet tables and send an email to Sandra and Arty, detailing the reasons for BTCI to purchase the 10 tables instead of L&W (multiple groups use these tables not just L&W) and the cost if purchased on-line at WalMart.) Sandra and Arty to present this info to the general manager.

Habitat Conservation – neighborhood habitats-need deer proof plants near Admin area (calico aster recently planted here.) Seed experiments at the Sallie Doss hill-seeded and coming up well (native plantings: 1st year sleep, 2nd year creep, 3rd year leap.) The spillway area will need some work done in the fall to remove woody plants and invasives that are growing here.

-plantings-two kinds of milkweed were sown near Coffee Cove and are growing well; willows are also growing.

-littering sign-Dara to confirm that this sign was installed at the beach area. Location for bat house needed.

Trails – Mason emailed the Chestnut Cove trail map to the group prior to the meeting.

-Lined start of Beaver Run Trail with logs on low side and covered heavily rooted areas with mulch for ease of walking.

- Defined Chestnut Cove trail from parking lot to in-ground wooden steps at "start" of logging road trails in woods by lining both sides with logs and filling-in with mulch. Cleaned up brush, logs and construction debris around Chestnut Cove parking lot and created nice habitat pile. A small amount of work remains on this pile to create habitat shelter/tunnel.

- Mulched bare ground below lower CC parking lot wall. Need group to think about fall plantings for this area, I'm thinking bushes or small trees such as native azaleas, native hollies, etc. (see 2nd attachment) Also, need group to think about fall plantings in area above upper CC parking lot wall. I'm thinking lower ground cover type plants such as native ferns or non-invasive vines, etc. (see 3rd attachment)

-Mapped new orange trail and verified layout is all on Bent Tree property (see 1st attachment).

- Completed blazing of "white" Creekside Crossing and "yellow" High Vista trails. Blazed half of "orange" Mountainside trail from low point to high point. Trail turned out to be longer than originally planned and I need to order more blazes to complete. Have cleared brush from all CC trails but have not started cutting in footpath across new steep section at top of mountain.

- Cleared numerous downed trees and a few serious wido/wmakers from Sallie Doss, Beaver Run, Creekside Crossing and High Vista trails.

-Action Item: BT directory needs to be updated to reflect the new trail map for Chestnut Cove. Brian to access the two trees that are over the Sallie Doss trail from the recent storm.

KBTB – need a group of ladies to get together to make bows for the outdoor holiday decorations. In the near future, need to recruit some new zone leaders to replace vacancies and possibly schedule a work day.

Communications – Wednesday Habitat emails – educational articles having a monthly theme, written by Dara and submitted to Taree weekly for distribution to the community; purpose is to highlight a connection between one animal/plant/invertebrate and connect an “action” with it which is relevant to our environment within BT.

-New Resident handout – Brian is in the process of updating a printed handout for new L&W members.

Sunshine – Five cards were mailed in June/July; four get well cards and one sympathy card.

-going forward, Carolyn LaHatte will be the contact for all requests for cards.

Membership Support – continue volunteer recognition program at least through the end of this year

Adjournment: 5:18 pm