

Lake & Wildlife Executive Meeting

Monday, October 14, 2024

Club Tamarack- Fireside Room

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

Roll Call: Present - Brian Vassar, Rick Patterson, Denise McCabe, Elden Bonnette, Mason Holland, Arty Allen, Travis Bryan, Calvert Huffines

Absent – LuAnn Chambers, Carolyn LaHatte, Andy Kidd, Dara Sinclair, Mary Ada Kidd, Sandra Stewart

Visiting – Michael Kahn

Opening Reports:

Review and approval of September Executive Minutes: Rick moved to approve the September minutes with a change in the November Partners Meeting presentation from Chris Feldt to Rick and Dara presenting Habitat Plan; Brian Second, all approved.

Review and approval of September Finance Report: Denise distributed the September Treasurer's summary with a beginning balance of \$13,057, with about \$1,200 in expenses, mostly in trail maintenance, with an ending bank/checkbook balance of \$11,805. Denise is adding descriptions for line items to make it easier to see expenses for each activity. Amount available for Habitat to spend in budget was discussed. Budget worksheet for 2025 will be sent out for review by members to determine needs for 2025. Rick made a motion to approve the September Finance Report as presented; Elden second, all approved. Brian to email out 2025 budget requests.

Partners Meeting Presentations:

October – Paul Slovisky (from Tigris) gave a thorough presentation discussing sediments and dredging. There were about 48 people in attendance. As this will be a major expense, Brian, Rick and Huff will meet with the board tomorrow at the capital expense budgeting session to give their input on this project. Dredging options were discussed and ways to finance the work requiring \$1.2 million total.

November – Habitat Plan presented by Rick and Dara.

December – Jim Pryor's year-end report.

2025 Topics – April- Mark Warren, May-Snakes, December-Jim Pryor

Board Liaison Report – BOD -New board members: Brian Feehan, Scott Hux, and David Johnson. Board will be reviewing budgets and Capital Expense items in coming weeks. Board wants input and L&W is on agenda tomorrow to discuss dredging and stream work.

BTCL - Travis – Discussion about replacing the trees at the boat storage area. The trees that are currently there don't achieve the goal which was to hide the boat storage area from the lake itself. Since BT wants more boat storage, let's wait for the master plan before moving forward with the tree issues.

Mission, Vision, Planning - Brian, Rick, and Denise recommended that the individual department chairs begin their 2025 budget process now and take into consideration their current expenditures and thoughts on revenue remaining this year as they begin to prepare their 2025 budget requests. Start this process before Thanksgiving. Rick discussed the Lake Recreation area ad hoc committee and they are still working on a plan and looking for input. Asked all attending to submit ideas to him.

Executive Team – Open positions for 2025: Rick, Elden, LuAnn, and Mary Ada. Elden stated he will stay on till the proper person is chosen to head the Wildlife Sub-Committee. Rick and Brian have received interest from some individuals in joining the Committee and are exploring them and positions for them. Individuals leaving will be contacted by Brian and Rick with possible replacements for their input prior to decisions on replacements.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Fundraising – October 22 meeting at the Tavern at 11:30 for those who will be working and planning Tamarack Treasures. The sale will be on Saturday, November 9th. And Sunday November 10th.

Whispering Springs sales only generated \$122, possibly due to the bad weather resulting in a change of date for the sale. If continuing with the fall sale next year, maybe consider plants for sale that are unique to BT fall planting for our habitat and have them in stock...work with Habitat Conservation on this idea. Perhaps have only one sale next year.

Wildlife – Elden stated Annual deer count will be conducted next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights. The acorn crop is good but smaller size than last year. The number of deer is higher this year. With higher numbers, there is concern about the lack of acorns this year and the effect that would have on the health of the herd. Geese are going south and numbers way down. No hog or bear issues.

Lakes – It was suggested that we post on the website the location of the ugly tree habitats in the lake. However, it is hard to identify exactly where they are on a map since it wouldn't give you an exact location. Decoys were used initially but people were taking them and keeping them for souvenirs. Too many decoys in the lake would not be attractive. Too many small bass so need to get them caught and reduce population. Last bag of anti-leach pellets put out in late September and no complaints about leeches in last 60 days. Will do next year again.

Streams – September stream work was very good. Macros, PH, and Oxygen were fine. Additional people are interested in helping with the stream work.

Last week the work on Mulligan streambank restoration began. Both sides are now trimmed, and the shrubs are out. Ashley will send out his team to take out the big trees. An arborist came out and identified which trees were dying or would die so those will be removed also. The streambank restoration will be completed by early spring.

Special Events – October 30th is the new date for the employee luncheon.

Habitat Conservation – For the last 9 months Rick has been working with an ad hoc committee to come up with a community plan for Habitat Conservation which was one of the top priorities of our residents. The committee has met with Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Fire Wise, and other organizations in ways to ensure a healthy forest. Possibly investigating the idea of selling carbon credits to help fund this endeavor. This plan will be presented to the board in November, on 11-12. This is a community effort and not a Lake and Wildlife effort. Copies of the complete plan will be emailed to the Executive Committee members prior to presenting it to the BOD. Rick to email out.

Trails – Putting up the trail signs at Chestnut Cove has appeared to increase the number of people out on the trails. After a couple of close encounters with the bears in our forest, Mason will have Michael Corey install two Bear Wise signs: one at the front gate and the other at the back gate, and L&W will post smaller signs at the start of the Chestnut Cove and the Denny Ridge trails where bear activity is more prevalent. This will help promote awareness not only for our residents but also for visitors and renters reminding them that they are in their (bear) territory. A map will be installed at Chestnut Cove by the kiosk showing elevation profiles. Since the orange trail is not fully developed to the very top of the trail, a caution/turn around sign will be posted.

Hiking Club Leadership Mason will be overseeing the Hiking Club and coordinating it through Lake and Wildlife. Dara posted the hiking club schedule on the website, and they will work together to put a link in the Friday News.

KBTB – October 25th fall planting at 8:00 am, volunteers meet at Admin.
Wreath ribbon making volunteers needed for new Holiday decorations TBD.

Andy is working with Travis and others on the outside Cottage landscaping for 2025.

Communications – Dara received a list of 50 newcomers and will approach those to become part of L&W. Brian is working on a new resident handout. Wednesday Habitat emails continue to be sent out to the community.

Sunshine – no cards mailed out in October.

Membership Support – over 650 hours year to date.

Adjournment: 5:00 pm