

Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2014

The doors were open for breakfast at the Litchfield Sportsman's Club at 8:15. There were 98 adults and 4 children served. After the meal approximately six more folks joined the group for the business meeting.

The meeting was opened by President, Bruce Doyle. He thanked the kitchen staff who volunteered to set up, cook and clean up. A motion was made and seconded to dispense with reading of last year's minutes as they were posted on the website. Motion passed.

Kurt Bechtel gave a summary of the audit report. He and Pat Soboleski audited the books on 5/21. They went over the credit and debits month by month and everything balanced. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. Motion passed.

Buddy Potts presented the treasurer's report. There was \$2,844 in donations. He specifically thanked LA Harley for their generous gift of \$450. He also thanked Fontaine Real Estate for their continued support. The state grant this year for milfoil inspections was \$1800. Last year it was \$1900. The towns of Monmouth and Litchfield gave \$1500 in support of the milfoil project as well. Buddy thanked the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) for providing the inspections and their financial support. Total budget: \$12,466.96 received this year and \$8,393 spent (mostly on inspectors) resulting in a \$3,800 surplus. Buddy explained that we have \$42,483.91 in reserve which sounds like a lot of money, but would be a very small sum if we were to get in infestation of invasive plants. No questions.

Bruce Doyle thanked Terry Averill for keeping watch on the dam. He checks it almost daily, particularly given the heavy rains this spring.

Bruce introduced Pat Soboleski from the nominating committee. The following were nominated for the board: Bruce Doyle, President; Buddy Potts, Treasurer; Charlie Manchester, Vice President; Diane Clay, Secretary; and Bridget Wagner, Ari Wile, and Rainey Doyle as directors. He asked for nominations from the floor, but none were given. A motion

was made and seconded to close the nominations. Motion passed. The vote was taken and new officers instated.

Bruce gave the president's report

Boat inspectors have been busy. In regards to the dam there has been no progress in obtaining contractors to do dam repair or maintenance. Bruce asked anyone who knows of someone qualified who might be interested to please give him the information. It looks like this year will involve only continued maintenance.

TLIS has been working with the DEP to prevent the spread of milfoil. Benthic barriers have again been placed in Purgatory Stream and will be moved once this summer to again smother the milfoil. Bruce has been working to keep the membership up to date. He thanked Joline Bell for her assistance in looking up addresses at the town office and checking to see who has move. The records do not always give complete information about who has moved and where.

Another goal of TLIS is to increase revenues. The pie auction did very well, and we are still selling tote bags and T-shirts. Other ideas are welcome, too.

There are still some openings for the Maine Forest Service chipping program. They will be coming around on Monday July 28. Bruce stated that he has the applications. Two applications were submitted after the meeting.

Bruce went on to express that he is pleased to see new, young members on the board. He also thanked Becky [Hessler Fleming](#) for her work on the Facebook page and encouraged all members to check it out. The contest to encourage people to sign up with TLIS did not have many entries. One person did "hit the nail on the head", Gloria Early. The prize was awarded to her husband, Chuck, as Gloria was not present to accept. Next year the contest will be easier in order to encourage more participation.

Diane Clay said a few words about plant patrol. The committee has a few trained members who have been working on surveys each summer, but the goal is to get a larger group of folks including some from each lake. She explained that the plant patrol committee has set up several dates for this

summer and would welcome members who want to learn what to look for. If everyone was able to spot suspicious plants and knew who to call when something is spotted, we could detect an infestation quickly before it could spread. Diane encouraged folks to sign up to learn more.

Bruce asked if there were any questions or concerns. One of the members noted that he has observed many personal watercraft towing skiers or tubes with no observer on board. Others agreed. Another concern expressed is that water trucks use Tacoma Lakes to fill their tanks. When one person asked the truck driver, he expressed that there aren't many lakes around here that he is allowed to draw from. A slalom course which runs quite close to shore was another concern. Also, there is a fungus that is killing pine trees this year. This phenomenon happened because of the current weather pattern which has generated much heat and water. There is not much that can be done, but a healthy pine should last at least 5 years.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:04. Motion passed and the speakers were introduced.

Tamara Whitmore is the new executive director of Friends of Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW). She spoke about the three missions of the organization: education, "slow the flow" project, and milfoil prevention and eradication. FOCW provides day camps as well as a tadpole patrol program for youngsters to teach them about water quality and invasive plants. Jay Lindsay runs the "slow the flow" program, the mission of which is to teach folks how to prevent run-off. They also assist lake front property owners in erosion prevention. FOCW provides milfoil inspectors at the boat launch Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Current shifts are 6 hour shifts, but Tamara is writing grants to fund longer shifts. They have also been working on using the benthic barriers in Purgatory Stream. In addition, The Otter, ice cream boat, will be out in the lakes again this summer.

Steve Ochmanski, the code enforcement officer in Litchfield, spoke about up-dated regulations: In 2002 the law changed from allowing a 30% expansion within 100 of the water to a specific number of square feet. There is also a height restriction on buildings. Since 2012 any new foundation changes have to go before the planning board making it difficult to make any changes close to the water. Litchfield has its own rules

regarding tree removal. The regulations allow for a certain amount within a specific area. A permit isn't necessary, but you should ask Steve before cutting. Wood chips are good for erosion control. Also, when doing work around the shoreline you need to use contractors who are certified to work in the shore land zone. One member asked a question about Wentzel Road. It is OK to remove dangerous trees or limbs. When asked for clarification of "right of way", Steve said it is legally defined as: "the width of 2 oxen"!

A true record, attest:
Diane Clay, Secretary