

**TACOMA LAKES IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
July 13, 2013**

The annual meeting was held at the Sportsman's Club, Litchfield, ME. The breakfast was served from 8:30 – 9:30 AM. A total of 47 adult meals and one child meal was served. The annual meeting followed the breakfast.

President Bruce Doyle called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. He thanked everyone for attending. He also thanked everyone who helped set up, prepare, and serve and clean up the excellent breakfast.

The President declared a quorum present. The Secretary had posted the minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting minutes on the website. Motion was made and seconded and unanimously voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes. The President asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes. There were none. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Buddy presented the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer reported that the Tacoma Lakes Improvement Society enjoyed a very successful financial year in 2012.

Highlights include:

- Membership – 221. This is the highest membership in about a decade. Accurate membership records have been kept since 2010.
- Financial Controls. There are very strong financial controls in place to ensure the integrity of our Association finances. These controls include every expense over \$100 being approved by the entire board; every deposit record includes a copy of every check deposited; directors and officers receive absolutely no compensation from the Association and work solely as volunteers; monthly financial statements are provided to the entire board and an annual comprehensive audit reviewing every financial record is made by board members who are not involved in the day to day accounting. Insurance is purchased to protect the association, board members and the membership from liability risks. A full financial report is made to members at each annual meeting and the previous year's financial statement is available to members at the annual meeting. The board takes its financial responsibilities very seriously.
- Donations: Total cash donations to the association from individuals and businesses totaled \$2,965.00. This is the most received by the association in at least a decade. This amount does not include donations made to the association for the annual meeting auction, which totaled another \$392.00. Donations are acknowledged on our website.

- Grants: TLIS received a \$2,000.00 grant from the State of Maine for boat inspections, the maximum grant available under the law. In addition we received a grant of \$1,000.00 from the Town of Litchfield and \$500.00 from the town of Monmouth. We are very grateful for these grants.

#### 2012 Financial Summary:

Total Revenue, all sources: \$11,774.57  
Total Expenses, all sources: \$ 7,116.43  
2012 Surplus: \$ 4,658.14

#### 2012 Final Account Balances:

Checking: \$14,125.28  
CD #1: \$13,060.56  
CD #2: \$11,435.04  
TOTAL: \$38,620.88

The Treasurer reported that our biggest expense is for the boat launch inspectors. This cost was \$4,199.00 in 2012. We are continuing this major effort again in 2013.

Our website had about 3000 visitors in 2012. We now have a very active Facebook page managed by Becky Fleming. Buddy thanked Becky for her efforts.

If you would like copy of our complete 2012 financial statement please contact Buddy. These statements are for members only, which is why we don't post them on the website.

Bruce Doyle requested the audit committee report. Board members Pat Soboleski and Kurt Bechtel conducted a comprehensive review of the treasurer's records for 2012. They reported the treasurer has maintained appropriate records of all financial transactions during 2012. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to approve the audit committee report.

Buddy thanked outgoing Secretary Karen Ahern Smith for her service on the board of directors.

Bruce read the nominating committee report. The following were nominated:

Bruce Doyle – President  
Joline Bell – Vice President  
Buddy Potts – Treasurer  
Joni Smith – Secretary  
Charlie Manchester – Director  
Diane Clay – Director  
Dian White – Director  
Bill Gartley - Director

Buffy DeMatteis is retiring but will but still be active with the courtesy boat inspection project.

Motion was made to accept the nominating committee's recommendations. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President Bruce Doyle gave the President's report. He thanked all for voting for him for president. He thanked Buddy Potts for his work on behalf of the society. He acknowledged the contributions of all the board members. He also thanked the membership for giving extra dues and donations. Thank you was also given to the local advertisers for their generous donations to the society.

Highlights from the President's report included:

- Thanking Terry Averill for the superb job he does as dam keeper.
- Efforts to keep members informed including e-mails during the year from him to the members.
- Impressive number of boat inspections; we have one of the highest records; third in our watershed.
- Efforts to work closely with town officials

The President reported on the condition of the dam. The dam has not been maintained by the town. He stated the dam needs to be fixed and maintained. He stated that the dam affects all of us. What happens if the dam breaks?

The President's Goals:

- Fix and maintain the dam
- Work with a structural engineer
- Design a contingency plan for the dam
- Need to design a Standard Operating Manual
- Continue working with the Friends of Cobbossee
- Continue to update email and mailing addresses
- Look for ways to increase revenue
- Work on the fireworks issue – enforcement

President Bruce Doyle introduced the first speaker Tamara Whitmore, Education and Programs Director for the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed. Tamara started by talking about the mission of Friends of Cobbossee. Their mission is: "To protect and improve the 28 lakes and streams in the Cobbossee Watershed." Then Tamara explained the education programs that the Friends have to offer year round.

- Watershed Science Program - offers watershed field experiences.
- Nature Day Camps – Emphasis is placed on adventure, discovery, exploration and fun.
- Tadpole Patrol – familiarizes children with lake ecology, water quality and what they can do to protect our water resources for the future.
- Invasive Aquatic Program – The first line of defense against invasive aquatic plants, inspecting water craft for plant fragments carried by boats and trailers.

- Youth Plant Patrol – members survey and map water bodies of the Cobbossee Watershed for both native and non-native plants.

Tamara thanked TLIS for all the work they do. She stated the purpose of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed is to be a resource for associations like TLIS.

Our second speaker was Brian Kent, incoming president from Kennebec Land Trust. He explained that KLT works with landowners and communities to conserve the forests, shore lands, fields and wildlife that define central Maine. They work in 21 communities. Their goal is to make sure that the land is there for all of us to enjoy. KLT conservation properties include three in Litchfield: Webber-Rogers Farmstead, Smithfield Plantation, and Small Burnham Conservation Area. Brian passed out membership forms to those interested in becoming a member of KLT.

The third speaker was Rayna Leibowitz, Third Selectperson from Litchfield. Rayna introduced herself by explaining that she is an 8<sup>th</sup> generation resident in Litchfield. She listed the many local organizations that she supports and/or sits on the boards. Rayna talked about preserving Litchfield. She thanked TLIS for their support of the community. She gave a list of areas that the town and the society have common interest and concerns:

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| • Water quality         | • Woodbury Pond Dam  |
| • Milfoil control       | • Woodbury Pond Park |
| • Safe boating          | • Neighbor relations |
| • Shore land protection | • Road quality       |
| • Wildlife habitat      | • Fire               |
| • Property values       |                      |
| • Protection            |                      |

Rayna addressed some town changes and concerns:

- Trudy Lamoreau is the acting town manager
- Steve Ochmanski is the acting road commissioner
- A lot of work has been done this year concerning roadside brush control
- Woodbury Pond Dam – reports had not been known by the Selectmen. Dam committee is going to help with an emergency plan (attendees responded with applause)
- Fireworks Committee – interested in seeing this happen. Contact Rayna if you have any interest in being this committee
- Road Advisory Committee – if you have any experience in this field and if interested, contact Rayna
- Solid Waste Committee - need to explore options and to do a better job with solid waste – any interest contact Rayna

There is lots of opportunity for supporting the efforts of both the town of Litchfield and TLIS.

She made it clear that if anyone has any concerns about any problems in the town, please contact her and she will help to address the issues.

Buddy thanked Brian Kent for the fine job he did in designing the new TLIS logo.

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously voted to adjourn the annual meeting @ 10:40 AM.

A true record, attest:

Joni Smith  
Secretary