

**Present:** Kathy Ervin, Mary Reed, Alice Hendricks, Frank English, Mike Acton, Jim Simons, Lee LaFleur, Dan Behring, Howard and Pat Hughes, Herb Lenon,

**1. Welcome** - Meeting called to order by President Kathy Ervin at 7:00pm.

**2. Secretary Report** - Frank English moved Alice Hendricks seconded to approve March minutes. Minutes were approved as distributed.

**3. Treasurer Report** - Treasurer Frank English reviewed the following balances as of April 26th 2010:

- Annual fund - 14,697.59
- Endowment fund - 72,550.03
- General ledger expenses - 405.04

Alice Hendricks moved, Frank English seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Report approved.

**4. Committee reports -**

- **Invasive species committee** - Mary Reed gave the report that will be given to the Township Board at their May 2010 meeting. She also reported that the marsh marigolds are blooming in the area that was treated for phragmites at the Farr Center. The spring newsletter from Lakeshore Environmental Inc. will be sent with the summer taxes. The results of the storm drain sampling have not been obtained.

**5. Old Business**

**Display Board at the Boat Launches:** – Mary Reed reported that the signs are ready to be ordered. She will check with Tim Morley and order them tomorrow. We will order 1 large (53"W x 8"D x 40"H) for the village park and 1 medium (40"W x 8"D x 30"H) for the DNRE boat launch. The color will be "desert sand".

**Explore The Shores Grant** - Kathy Ervin reported that there will be a meeting tomorrow at the Fish Tales with the Alliance for Economic Success to explore options for writing a grant for \$50,000. We will need letters of support from the community. This grant would increase the access of the handicap to the lake and our parks.

**PLWF Summer 2010 Information Forums:** PLWF will sponsor 3 forums this summer to identify what people should know about how they can help to protect the watershed. Kathy has worked with Dan Behring on possible presenters and topics. The three topics suggested were:

- 1. Shoreline Grooming and Maintenance – Invasive Species**
- 2. Threats to Lakeshore property and the lake – Water pollution and Water Quality**
- 3. Storm Water Runoff – Septic systems**

These would be held in June, July and August. The council is looking for someone who would chair these seminars. Acton, Behring and Reed volunteered to help. Since many members were not present at the meeting, Kathy will contact others who might be willing to chair this project.. A summer intern was discussed.

### **New Business:**

**Land Acquisition:** Dan Behring reviewed the opportunity that the Township has to purchase property from the DNRE. The land is first offered to the Township, then to land conservancies, then to the public. The property involved is from Little Eden to Andy's point and the total price is \$69,000. The Township is considering purchasing the wetlands and 1 build able property for \$7,000 . They will vote on this at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Township board meeting. Dan made a motion that the PLWF support the Township's purchase of this property. Alice Hendricks seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**MCCF Mini Grant Application:** Kathy Ervin reported that we have submitted a grant request to the Manistee foundation for \$1,000. The Portage Lake Garden would oversee a rain garden as a school project to teach children stewardship of the land and best practice. This is part of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and the school staff will be surveyed in May.

**Portage Lake Watershed Endowment Fund Committee:** Mike Acton reported that if the market continues to improve they should have grant money to issue next year. Mike presented recommendations of this committee to the council for changes and the reasons that these changes would be beneficial::

Recommended changes:

- 1. *Transition the PLWF Endowment Fund from a Field of Interest Fund to a Committee Advised Fund.***
- 2. *Have the Endowment Fund Advisory Committee be the PLWF Council or a subcommittee thereof, with the new agreement specifying that the founder or the founder's designee have a permanent seat on the advisory committee.***

Reasons these changes would be beneficial:

**1. A Committee Advised Fund would better reflect the current model of how grants out of the fund will be recommended by an Advisory Committee. 2. A Committee Advised Fund will provide a link between the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Endowment Fund and the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Council. 3. It will help to further engage and empower members of the PLWF Council in the efforts to build and recommend grants out of the Endowment.**

Mike made a motion to accept these recommendations, Frank English seconded, motion approved.

**Membership on the board:** Discussion on how to get more council members to attend the meetings. There are 20 members on the council. Suggestions were: serve refreshments, change meeting to every 6 weeks, change meeting time. Some members may feel that the work is done and there is still lots to do. Discussion will continue at the next meeting. Minutes should reflect those members present and those not present.

**Onekama Village Park:** Alice Hendricks reported that she has distributed surveys to the school and has had several returned. Village Park surveys will also be sent out in the Portage Lake Quarterly newsletter. Purpose is to determine what people would like to have in the park. Jim Simons noted that issue of VHS and other invasives that are coming and the need for a fish cleaning station.

**Adjourn:** Dan Behring moved, Jim Simons seconded motion carried to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

**Next Meeting - May25th, 7PM at the Farr Center**

Mary Reed  
Acting Secretary