



PLWF Council Meeting Minutes

Farr Center – Onekama - 7:00 – 9:00 - Tuesday, May 29, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank English, Kathy Ervin, Herb Lenon, DeeDee Miller, Mary Reed, Al Taylor, Dave Van Eerden (?), Dan Behring, James “Nipper” Wisniski

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Mary Reed.

The minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Frank English gave the treasurer’s report (see attached). Herb moved approval; DeeDee Miller seconded. Motion passed.

WETLANDS REPORT

DeeDee Miller reported that the Onekama Township agreed to accept the property with deed restrictions. She said that of the 50 people she contacted to request contributions, only one said ‘no’ as other donations had been made by that person to watershed activities. As of May 28, of the \$35,000 committed, \$25,675 had been received with amounts ranging between \$5.00 and many thousands. She urged council members who had not yet supported the purchase that the deadline was June 7th.

The closing is scheduled for June 13th. A check will be presented to the Township in the amount of \$37,305.83 which includes credit for taxes through the end of the year.

A suggestion was made that the PLWF contribute \$1,000 to reach the total needed. The vote to support was unanimous.

Dan Behring’s suggestion that there be a joint celebration to recognize the purchase of the wetland was met with approval. Amid general discussion, Herb commented that the land be deemed a preserve, *not* a park, and that it be restricted for wetland purposes.

EXPLORE THE SHORES

Kathy Ervin reported that there was no further information about the status of the Michigan Trust Fund Grant application. Further updates will be available later in the summer.

ZONING ORDINANCE

Mary Reed reported on her membership on the riparian zoning overlay situation and said that a copy of the plan is available on the Onekama.info website.. Nipper urged people to read the document and offer suggestions. He went on to say that the document was still being reviewed and that it had been given to the Township Board.

Discussion re: Zoning Ordinances: “The community must be ‘brought along’”; Education is particularly key in addressing the community concerns. There were general observations about how education can be most effective – no long lectures, hands-on, inclusive, etc.

Mary also pointed out a number of upcoming meetings and articles related to this topic.

2012 SUMMER EVENT

Kathy Ervin brought the council up to date on plans for the Summer Fundraiser on the Acton Property, Sunday, July 29th. The only area of ongoing concern is accuracy of mailing lists. DeeDee and others strongly suggested that we find someone who can organize our various lists to assure they are current and ‘deliverable’. All were in agreement and it remains for us to hire someone to do the work.

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A survey was conducted on June 2nd of 60 – 85 acres. Portage Lake is slated for deepwater milfoil treatment research. The work will analyze plant and animal life in three deep-water basins both pre- and post treatment.

BY LAWS REVISION

The committee continues to work on revisions and the expectation is that the council will be voting on them soon.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

Nothing to report at this time.

WATERSHED EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Portage Lake Garden Club is presenting Carolyn Thayer and “Landscaping for the Lakeshore” on June 28th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting adjourned at 9:04

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ervin, Scribe