

**WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 @ 7PM

Board Meeting was Board @ Billings Twp. Hall

Doug Hill called to order at 7:00pm

Board Members- **Present:** Doug Hill, Tami O'Donnell, Mark Mudge, Gary Oliver, Dave Rothman, Bryan Gardner, Liz Seelhoff, Don Zakett

**Absent-**Larry Woodard (excused), Amy Bentley (excused)

**Members Present:** (21)

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Agenda-** Approved (Gary-Motion, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**Approval of previous minutes (2-8-24 & 3-14-24):** (Mark-Motion, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**Treasurer Report:** AS of March 31, 2024: **Income:** \$1,350.00.00 Memberships, \$230.00 Donations, \$82.00 Lake Rally, \$684.78 Comedy Night, \$2,152.50 Golf Outing, \$1.83 Interest. **Expenses:** \$202.50 (wix fees) **Checking Balance:** \$9,944.44 **Savings Balance:** **\$84,243.38 Total: \$94,187.82**  
**Motion to approve Treasurers report:** (Dave-Motion, Liz 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**Secretary Report: Members Paid:** (376) for 2024 of which are (191) Auto Renew Members & (185) One-year Members as of April 11, 2024.

**Website performance:**

**Site Sessions: Total 1,539, page views 2,694, Unique visitors 1,130**

**Total sales: \$3,921.00**

**WIX MARKETING ACTIVITY:**

**EMAIL:**

4,780 emails sent per email. 77.2% of emails opened. Click rate of 19.2% \$1,180.00

77% Mobile, 21% desktop & 3% tablet

Email 559, Facebook 554, Google 188, Direct 170, Bing 13, Duck Duck Go 10, FLTF 10, Yahoo 4 & Ourmidland 1 (how visitors to our site)

66% of visitors go to our Events page.

WLA will be hosting a **Comedy Night on** Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> doors open at 6:30pm \$20 per member \$30 per non-member at the Eagles club.

**Petition of Support to complete restoration of our Lake with the plan FLTF has put forth.**

# WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

Wixom Lake 442 Signatures, total on all 4 lakes- 1,674.

TUESDAY'S between 6AM-8AM and 5PM –10PM still is our strongest email day,

FRIDAY'S: 5AM-7AM time frame. WEDNESDAY'S: 4PM-8PM time frame.

**Motion to approve Secretary's Report:** (Mark-Motion, Dave- 2<sup>nd</sup>)

**Social Committee Report:** Doug & Tami gave updates, Comedy night is Friday, 106 tickets sold expecting sales at the door. Amy has the Lake Rally for Memorial Day Weekend all set up. 10 stops with games and registration is live on the website. Golf Outing has 14 teams registered and 5 Sponsors so far, both are available on the website.

**MEMBERSHIP TASK FORCE REPORT:** Doug reported that the group is making headway and working together very well. \$25 dollars in the pot is \$25 we don't have to fundraise. Talk to your neighbors, but respect their side of the road. Focus on giving data for an educated decision. The Membership will have a postcard with benefits at the Lake Rally, feel free to share with your neighbors. Membership list has been divided up between task force members and they are contacting people. The task force is planning on going full strength after the May 29<sup>th</sup> hearing.

**FLTF UPDATE:** Dave updated us on the EPA permit which was answered, sent a letter to EGLE and had a meeting last week to interpret the EPA language in the letter. Part 301 Mitigation-contemplating projects around the lake about doing damage to the stream after refilling-then plans on Sanford for fish habitat. Wixom, not all the plans yet, DNR fish habitat to discuss what to be done. Planning on Sanford is more involved because it was mowed clean. Wixom looking at about 100 acres of standing trees (vertical) for fish habitat, 8-10' topped off below the water, similar to the look of the old tall trees that are there from the original flooding of the lake bed. EGLE appears flexible to claim this as fish habitat but wants DNR input. Tobacco side looking at setting up cover boulders for walleye spawning beds, EPA not sure, EGLE asked DNR to weigh in. Looking at more area for Fish habitat in shallow water for bluegill & bass, 2'-6' deep with low boat traffic looking at area south of DNR launch and to the west side of the tobacco spillway. FLTF will be communicating on what trees and where will need to be left and topped in a few weeks. Fish Habitat upstream of the Tittabawassee arm has existing 100-150 acres about 100 times more than Sanford. Once approval the permit can be submitted and will be making progress. FLTF schedule is that early summer to the end of year we will be able to leave the 4 dams at a stable place based on financing. Emails were sent out this week in reference to the plan as of now. FLTF is not speculating on the appeal by Heron cove association, focus in the mean time is on starting to apply for small grants, to fund a few projects.

Don added to the update, that walleye spawning also considered for below the Smallwood Dam, and below the Tobacco Spillway to feed Sanford, below the Edenville side as well.

-Grants, EGLE will not allow for Mitigation, needs to come from the SAD.

-FEMA grant 5M for construction dam work.

-EPA grant 17M environmental infrastructure in disadvantaged communities.

-USACE grant instead of a loan.

-Spent 24-25M on stabilization of shoreline on Sanford & Wixom 40,000 ton of rock and EGLE will not give us credit towards mitigation.

-Possible to use "in-kind" credit by using volunteers to do some mitigation work.

# WIXOM LAKE ASSOCIATION

**WLIB UPDATE:** Don updated on the mowing over the winter, that it was not performed due to no frost in the ground. WLIB meets next week to work on a plan for the summer months, when the lake bed is more stable.

## **New Business:**

Doug stated that WLA has been mowing the homeowners responsibility and that we are no really under the gun, but at a more maintenance phase. Tami stated that WLIB will be taking care of the canals, she is on that committee.

- Billings Township 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

- Motion to print postcards for the Membership task force, by Mark, Dave-2<sup>nd</sup>

- Motion for new banner at the Woody's yard on M-30, by Dave, Mark 2<sup>nd</sup>

(conversation with Member-Scott Parks maybe able to help us with cost of banner)

- Motion to pay Billings Township for hall use until end of year, by Dave, Gary-2<sup>nd</sup>

## **Member Comment:**

- Sid Hansen-capital costs were original 250M, with a balance of 50M to homeowners, now its 217M to homeowners. Cost overruns of 150,000 flawed scope, engineers just blew the scope. Reduce cost project management-reduces scope. Cost saving at the very start was flawed, FLTF very short sided. His proposal is to have a team review the cost on Edenville and Sanford to find cost savings. Weir dam is still the best cost savings and getting the project done on time. Gary Oliver responded with "scope Creep" it happens on most major projects.

- Beth Rayner-can we gather at courthouse in support of our lakes coming back? Doug commented to do what she feels right, but to keep it peaceful. To share the petition of support, keep the focus and not create a divider.

- Scott Parks stated that Christ's Church is having a Restoration and Recovery remembrance on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the church at 4pm and they are interested in being a stop for the Lake Rally. Tami said she would contact Amy.

## **Board Comments:**

Tami-asked if anyone would be interested in a FLTF support yard sign

- Doug-take care of yourselves and each other. We are in a good place.

**Adjournment:** 8:22pm