

Friend of the Maple River
Minutes of December 5, 2007
Pewamo Village Hall
130 Main Street, Pewamo

PRESENT:

Jeff Wadell, President
Ed Mikula, Vice President
Anita Ladouceur, Secretary
Joe Smolka, Treasurer
Gary Boersen, Watershed Monitoring Committee Chair
Jack Nutter, Watershed Improvement Committee Chair
Phil Hanses
Dan Simmon
Gale Rowell
Dale Ladouceur
Jim Ellickson
Fred Olmsted
Joe Latoff
Jon Morrison
Ben Bierstefel

CALL TO ORDER:

Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Nutter lead the pledge of allegiance.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

Wadell stated the purpose of the group.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

Nutter introduced the guest speaker, Lori Sargent, Acting Waterfowl Specialist from the Michigan DNR, who gave a presentation on waterfowl management in Michigan.

- Waterfowl hunting seasons are determined by populations in the U.S. and Canada, and by federal regulations (cooperative management). The U.S. must follow the federal framework.
- Michigan has a goose removal program for problem geese.
- Sargent's email is sargentl2@michigan.gov
- A. Ladouceur recommended everyone visit the DNR website (and click on "Ask DNR"), where users can post questions on a variety of topics and receive an answer from the DNR in a couple weeks. All questions and answers are posted by categories and subcategories. There are 1000's of questions and answers posted.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

Mikula moved to approve the agenda as presented. Latoff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

- Ladouceur presented the meetings from October and November.
- Regular Monthly Meeting, October 17, 2007 Minutes
 - Hanses moved to approve the minutes of October 17, 2007 meeting as presented, with the exception of adding his name to the minutes and correcting the December meeting date. Nutter supported the motion. Motion carried.
- Board of Director's Meeting, November 7, 2007 Minutes
 - Hanses moved to approve the minutes of November 7, 2007 meeting as presented. Nutter supported the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Smolka reported a balance of \$432.69 in the checking account.

Donations & Contributions: Nothing new to report.

Fundraising - Pontoon Boat & Canoe Raffle:

- The project is waiting for drier weather.
- The raffle drawing will be at the Maple Rapids festival in 2008 (September?).
 - A license application needs to be completed.
 - We need someone to volunteer to be the Raffle Chairperson and contact Wadell via email at jeffwadell06@yahoo.com
- The pontoon is currently stored at the Ladouceur's in Hubbardston.

Membership Renewals:

- A recommended due date of January 1 will be used. This would require a bylaw change at the annual meeting in May.

Mikula moved to approve the Treasurer's report. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Website:

- A. Ladouceur reported that the new website is up and running. There are a few additional items that still need to be added. Jack Fritz, website developer, will be working on adding more information following final exams at MSU.
- A. Ladouceur will check with Fritz about the ability for users to upload their own photos to the website.

New Articles:

- Mikula sent out news releases to 8 newspapers
- We need to post the news releases/articles on the website.
- Mikula will email the information to A. Ladouceur, and she will get them to Fritz.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Watershed Improvement Committee:

- Nutter reported for the committee.
- Elsie Dam Project is on hold.
- Maple Rapids Boat Launch & Park Project is on hold.
- New Launch Site, Clinton County Green Space Commission is on hold.
- Muskrat Lake Project
 - Plans are finalized.
 - Permit application has been sent to the DEQ.
 - Construction will take place in the summer during low flow.

Education Committee:

- Latoff reported for the committee.
- Signage Project
 - Costs are \$48/sign.
 - Wadell will submit an application to attain funding from the Tri County People's Fund to have the signs made.
 - Road Commission will erect the signs.
- Oral History Project is on hold
- Clinton County Solid Waste Management, Watershed Education Curriculum is on hold.

Watershed Monitoring Committee

- Boersen reported for the committee.
- MRW Monitoring Plan
 - We are waiting to see what the DEQ finds in their 2007 sampling.
- 319 Watershed Management Plan
 - There is a meeting on the 11th with DEQ.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership Recruitment/Retention Brainstorming

- 1 current list of members is needed. Ladouceur volunteered to update the membership list. Hanses and Smolka will email their lists to Ladouceur for her to compile before the January meeting.
- We may need to have more brochures printed.
- A. Ladouceur has concern for future payment of the website. The website developer is paid through the end of the year. A. Ladouceur will contact the Smiths' from St. Johns, who volunteered at the June meeting to pay the monthly fees of \$35 to see if they are still interested in helping.

2008 Meeting Schedule

- We will follow the same schedule as in 2007.
- Hanses will put the 2008 schedule together and email it to A. Ladouceur so it can be put on the website.

OTHER BUSINESS:

5th Board Member

- Wadell mentioned that the bylaws mention a "5th board member". The 5th Board Member was originally the Past President.

Display Board

- Mikula put together a nice display board that is available to use at various events and locations, including future meeting locations in businesses' front windows.

FOTMR Award

- The FOTMR award can be given to teachers, students, etc. Carrie Simon and Eric Buhr (teachers) and the person in charge of the Greenspace Commission were recommended as recipients.

ADJOURNMENT:

Boersen moved to adjourn the meeting. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

NEXT MEETING:

- The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on January 16, 2008. The location is TBD.
- A social time will take place from 6:30pm to 7:00pm.

Please direct any and all modifications to the minutes to Anita Ladouceur, 989-981-6869.