

Friends of the Maple River
Minutes of December 3, 2008
Pewamo Village Hall
130 Main Street, Pewamo

PRESENT:

Jack Nutter
Donna Apostol
Peter Apostol
Mark Brooks
Phil Hanses
Gary Wener
Dale Ladouceur
Ed Mikula
Jeff Wadell
Joe Latoff
Anita Ladouceur
Gary Fritz
Jim Ellickson
Art Bloomer
Jon Morrison

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Wadell welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The group said the Pledge of Allegiance.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

J. Wadell stated the purpose of the group.

AGENDA REVIEW, REVISIONS AND ADOPTION:

Latoff moved to approve the agenda. Nutter supported the motion. Motion carried.
"2009 Meeting Locations" was added to "Other Business".

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Wadell introduced guest speaker, Gary Fritz, Clinton County Conservation District Director

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Regular Monthly Meeting, October 15, 2008

D. Ladouceur moved to approve the minutes of October 15, 2008 meeting as presented. Mikula supported the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Checking Account Balance:

- Ellickson reported a balance of \$819.56 in the checking account. Mikula moved to approve the Treasurer's report. D. Ladouceur seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Membership:

- Ellickson submitted 2 new memberships.

COMMUNICATIONS:

News Articles:

- Mikula sent the meeting notice out to all local newspapers.

Website:

- There is now 319 Grant information on the FOTMR website.
- Our website coordinator is paid through the end of December. We need to pay him \$150 by the end of the month to cover through June 2009.

Newspaper Insert:

- Latoft is still working on this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE:

Nutter reported for the committee.

Muskrat Lake Project:

- Hanses, Morrison and Fritz met with the DEQ regarding the project.
- They are reviewing the letter from the DEQ and asking for clarifications.
- They need to make sure all landowners are still supportive before the project proceeds.

Elsie Dam:

- The township has hired a consultant to do a study, and tree removal and surveying has taken place.
- Nutter will check into having a speaker to discuss the project at the next meeting.

Maple Rapids Boat Launch:

- Latoft and Hanses will arrange a meeting between the Greenspace Commission and the property owner.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Latoft reported for the committee.

- Latoft provided a handout on the committee's activities.
- Information on the Education Committee has been added to the website.
- FOTMR Award:
 - Latoft moved that Rich Nichols, Clinton County Conservation Officer and Art Bloomer, resident, both receive an award for their investigative work at the Muskrat Lake trash dumping. Mikula seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - Wadell will invite Nichols to the January meeting and ask him if he will speaker at it.

- Display Boards:
 - Latoff is still working on getting a 3D model of the watershed for the booth.
 - Fritz recommended jointly manning a booth with the Friends of the Looking Glass (FOTLG) at various events and festivals.

WATERSHED MONITORING COMMITTEE:

Boersen was absent from the meeting.

319 Watershed Management Plan:

- Gary Fritz gave a presentation on the progress of the plan.
 - Low Level Flight:
 - Fritz showed photos from the low level flight of the Upper Maple River area.
 - Both days were miserable weather. Sunlight and water levels on the day of the flight didn't allow for color changes on land and in the water.
 - They went along the main branch of the Maple River, which appears to be stable.
 - Floodplains and wetlands are relatively natural and undisturbed.
 - Focusing on a smaller area would be more productive.
 - They plan to do another light in the spring.
 - Tillage Survey:
 - This will be performed by volunteers as part of the plan.
 - It will help to get a better understanding of management practices in the watershed and their effects on the watershed.
 - It will help to narrow down priority areas.
 - It will be done in the spring around planting time.
 - They will provide examples of how to classify crop residue on the field.
 - Important Dates:
 - Quiet Waters Symposium, March 7, 2009 at Michigan State University.
 - Children's Water Festival, May 14, 2009 at Michigan State University.
 - Clinton County Conservation District Annual Meeting, March 12, 2009 at the office in St. Johns. There is information on their website.
 - Other:
 - Art Bloomer has agreed to be Chair of the Monitoring Committee for the 319 Grant.
 - The FOTMR website has been blocked by certain Internet servers, including those for Clinton County and the USDA. It appears as though our website has been flagged as containing sexual content. Fritz will do some investigating and report back to the FOTMR.

OLD BUSINESS:

Michigan United Conservation Clubs Membership:

- The membership application has been sent to MUCC. We haven't heard back yet.

Tent Logo:

- Latoff received an estimate of \$125 to have the FOTMR name put on the tent.
- Morrison motioned for him to donate the \$125 to the FOTMR. Wadell seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- The members thanked Morrison for his generous contribution.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Open Comments from the Public:

- Morrison stated that there is a project to collect used Christmas trees to be placed in Motz County Park's gravel pit.
- Latoff motioned for the FOTMR to help with the project. Nutter seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2009 Meeting Locations:

- Fritz recommended having a combined meeting with the FOTLG in February.
- Hanses will arrange for the February meeting location in Ovid. We may use a location other than the VFW Hall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Nutter moved to adjourn the meeting. Mikula seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on January 21, 2009 at The Rusty Nail Restaurant in Carson City.

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