

DONNELL LAKE
CONSERVATION CLUB
MINUTES 10/10/24
6:00 pm

Members Present: Jeff Corey, Gina Bergstrom, Kevin Cartwright, Sheila Witous, Kim Barnbrook, Sue Golden, Gerri Sly, Doug Hertel, Lori Allen,

Via Remote Call: Jean Olson, Garrett Libertowski, Pat Frame

Members Absent: Dave Louthan, Angie Steinman

Also Present: Dave Bergstrom, Jim Barnbrook, Lauren Hertel, Miriam Cartwright, John and Margaret McDonnell, Mary Schoenborn

Called to order the regular meeting of Donnell Lake Conservation Club

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of 9/7/24 were approved.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for this meeting was approved.

OPEN ISSUES

Upcoming Events

10/25 Halloween Party

Emie Choquette has volunteered to organize the Halloween party. Approximately 75 people attended last year and a band was hired. There will be a chili cook-off and people should bring a dish to share. It will be BYOB for drinks. There will be a costume contest. The board approved \$250.00 to reimburse Emie for costs. Lauren will collaborate with Emie to share decorations for the event and the Trunk or Treat.

Trunk or Treat – Lauren Hertel

Lauren will create a map of locations giving out candy. The club will be a stop. The parking lot and bar area will be used. Hot dogs, popcorn, donuts and cider will be served. Myrna and Sue will help. \$250.00 was approved to purchase supplies.

Clubhouse Maintenance Updates – Dave Bergstrom

The pavilion roof was replaced by Devin from Ultimate Roofing and Construction. We approved \$3,000.00 for this expenditure. The actual cost came to \$2950.00. Trees around the pavilion will be trimmed in the spring.

Aardvark Pest Control has offered to spray the club house three exterior times and one interior time for the upcoming year. He will also provide fogging before events for \$30.00. In return, we will comment on the lake Facebook page and add his company to the DLCC internet page as a preferred vendor. Our current contract with Armor is \$55/month, (\$460/year). David Kelm from Aardvark has not specified the services he would donate vs. what would be chargeable and what the monthly cost would be. Dave will follow up for a contract in writing so it can be compared to our current Armor contract.

There was future project discussion for reconfiguring the stage and basement entrance area. Dave will

get a project plan and quotes for the remodel over the winter to be reviewed at the first meeting in spring '25. He will also include getting quotes for adding auto-close hinges for the two exterior doors in the bar area.

Dave will contact Rich Dussell to get a cost of winterizing the clubhouse instead of members doing this job. The question exists about pouring antifreeze into the water lines, as this can be absorbed by the plastic over time. Is this really needed or was it done out of habit? If the cost is minimal to have this done professionally and the company assumes the liability, it seems to be a reasonable option. As the member population is turning over, much of the process is being lost and there is increased room for error, which could potentially cause damage from frozen pipes, etc.

Cashless Payments – Doug Hertel

Use of ticketing as a way to where money is being spent and how to disperse amounts between categories for events, merchandise, bar, etc.

Paypal – Anita will look into options for a card reader and payment for events.

Venmo – this would be an option, but we would need a volunteer to set up a personal account so that we could manage payments. Anita was not present so there is no update at this time.

Locks for the /Clubhouse – Doug Hertel

All door knobs/locks/deadbolts have been changed on the clubhouse. The deck entrance is a keyless numeric pad. There is a keyed entrance at the main door. All other doors are keyless entrance handles and keyless deadbolts.

Access will be granted to board members; Gerri Sly, Doug Hertel, Gina Bergstrom, Jeff Corey and Angie Steinman. Dave Bergstrom will share a code with Gina for ongoing maintenance. Lauren will share a code with Doug for access for rental contracts. Kevin Cartwright will also have code access. The keyed entrance will be given to Gerri Sly and Doug Hertel. Anyone granted access will need to provide Doug with a 4 digit code.

Wifi for Clubhouse – Gerri Sly

Gerri sent an inquiry to Midwest to schedule the installation of Wifi. The line will run underground from a box on the road to the bar area. The contract will be from May-October for \$70/month. Once that time period is up, the service can be put on a maintenance mode for \$15/month.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Landscaping – Gina, Sheila and Kim

Stump removal was completed.

Gerri's neighbor, Katie, will give suggestions for plants for the front of the clubhouse and has offered to donate any plants that she has around her home that could be used in the landscaping plan.

Youth Extension – Lauren Hertel

No updates at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Fund Purchase

\$1200 was spent on removing dead deer from the channel between Donnell and Lewis lakes. This was considered to be an isolated event and the club will evaluate any further cleanup on a case-by-case basis.

Bartending Upgrades – Sheila Witous

The following are some suggestions for improvements to the bar area: pour spouts for liquor bottles (Lauren said we have some). Install some kind of door to prevent people who are not bartending from going behind the bar, auto-close hinges for the two bar area doors to keep bugs out, larger beer glasses (It was decided to increase the size of the logo cups when we run out of the current size), cost of mixed drinks should not be the same as beer, board members to donate bottles of alcohol that can be used for shots.

Volunteer Coordination Process – Sheila Witous

Sheila will contacts Jody Papandrea to see if she still wants to do this.

Orientation to the Board- Lori Allen

Lori requested that an orientation packet be created for new members, which would include the by-laws, member contact information, and any additional information on board member roles and responsibilities. Angie Steinman had a booklet started for reference although it may not be complete. Gerri will follow up with Angie and put together an orientation packet for new members.

FINANCIALS

Balance of Accounts:

Operating Account	\$16,955	
(AED - \$807)		
Capital Improvement s	10,000	
Fireworks	3,770	
Raffle Account	<u>23,300</u>	(After moving \$4,762 to Capital Improvements)
Total:	\$54,025	

Once we decide what our near-term budget needs are until spring, Jeff recommends parking part of our excess funds in a 6 month CD.

Notable Recent Expenses:

Pavilion Roof	\$2950
Pavilion Gutter	375
Dead animal removal	1,200

Jeff wants to discontinue our subscription to MUCC for \$1,100. The board agreed. We will continue paying \$350/year to Michigan Lakes and Streams as this organization has been helpful.

He would like to add fish stocking to our membership letter in March. Jim Barnbrook said the DNR might help us with this expense.

Jeff reported that the clothing sales continue to lose money every year and we should evaluate whether we continue to sell merchandise. There was no decision made and this will be discussed at the beginning of the 2025 season. Gerri will post clothing left over from this year on Facebook to see if we can sell any more.

Jeff also emailed an analysis of Fireworks, Raffle, Membership and major expenses over the past three years. He expects expenses will increase next year, but doesn't know by how much. Our goal will be to self-fund the fireworks through donations.

Membership is down this year. It was discussed as to how to improve memberships. We should

increase our campaign through additional emails and Facebook reminders. Postal service mailings should be sent to each home. They were reduced this past year and we should make sure they are sent to all residents. Gerri will follow up with Anita to see if there is a way to identify new lake residents so we can send them conservation club information and a membership invitation.

The \$10,000 raffle continued to be a success this year with all tickets being sold. Dan Foley requested that the board review and approve this raffle for 2025. Jeff made a motion and it was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS- NON-BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Schoenborn suggested to increase updates on club actions so lake residents are aware of the accomplishments and improvements being made. She suggested maybe a newsletter could be sent out.

DLCC BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Lori Allen brought up discussion as to how to make board members more noticeable at club events and how to help lake residents feel more welcome with their suggestions and become more engaged in the community. We'd also like to increase attendance at our meetings.

Kevin noted that Anita had created name tags that were to be worn at events. This allowed residents to be able to identify board members and their roles. Members should continue to wear the name tags and walk around the room to introduce themselves and engage in conversation. New tags need to be made for our new members.

Gerri will increase additional awareness for monthly meetings by creating a Facebook meeting event and also send our email reminders prior to the meetings. She will also compose an email to general members introducing the board staff.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.