

Approved Minutes Jan LLCA meeting

Thursday Jan 21 La Naro Pub
Minutes Lake Leelanau Community Association
Written by Steve Clem (volunteer)

Attendees: Steve & Bev Clem, Mary Lou Mikowski, John & Marge Bunek, Amber Bingham, Coco Parks, Tesha Galla, Giuseppe & Andrea DelGiudce, Sally Guzowski, Jim & Madeline Houdek, Randy & Amber Alsip, Sheila Schaub, *Erik Zehender*

Guest:

John P. Amrhein
District Educator, State and Local Government
Michigan State University Extension
401 N. Lake St., Suite 400
Cadillac, MI 49601-1891
231-779-9480
fax: 231-779-9105
email: amrhein@msu.edu

Meeting called to order and quorum established at 7PM by Chairman Zehender

Agenda accepted

No Nov. minutes available for approval, will have for next meeting

Sheila suggested moving Tony to top of agenda so he could return to work - accepted.

Tony gave an encore presentation of the Walleye Festival weekend plans

- 1) Friday May 21
 - Golf Outing at Sugar Loaf The Old Course \$50 per person, 4 Man scramble
 - Parade In Lake Leelanau following Golf Outing
 - Car Show at St. Mary's following parade
 - Possibly fish fry – brats n dogs finger food
 - Possibly music John Rutherford
 - Prizes awarded following car show
- 2) Saturday May 22
 - Walleye (Fish) Festival starts at 6AM (Need more detail)

Tony explained need for a sign, Sheila said we have a banner for the Walleye Festival to hang across M204. Tony will take a look to see if it will work for this year.

Tony needs some help, a Walleye festival Committee sign up sheet went around at the Nov. meeting but is missing. Erik will find it.

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Tony talked to Leelanau Enterprise about some publicity; Rich Plamondon has an old fish tournament mail list from 2000, which may be of some use, WCCW radio will be coming to the festival

Perhaps we can sell slots to vendors on the street

Probably need to consider a fee or donation to St. Mary's for use of their facilities

Tony Plans to get committee together to work out details

Three Cheers for Tony!

Treasurers Report Sheila Schaub

- 1) Current Balance \$2488 includes Consumers power check for street light maintenance
- 2) 2009 deposits were \$3189 (includes \$800 for web site), withdrawals were \$1951
- 3) 2010 deposits \$325 withdrawals \$ 2881 (mostly Consumers power)

Discussion regarding street light maintenance costs (which up to now has been donated). Sheila is holding check to Consumers Power \$2800 approx. (due Feb. 7) while Erik/John B. talks to Leland Twp. about a new arrangement since present donor is not willing to continue. Consensus evolved that street lights should be maintained by Leland Township, not private citizens. Controversy is expected.

Sheila explained that United States Postal Service regulations prevent her from being our treasurer or even a Board member, accordingly she resigned from the Treasurers post. Erik has someone in mind to take over the job, will address next meeting.

Speaking for the Association, the writer would like to thank Sheila for many long hours keeping our books. She is always ready to provide excellent observations regarding all topics, and does a good job of keeping us out of the ditches, financial or otherwise. She will continue as a member and that is good news for certain. Thanks Sheila

Report: Representative to Leland Twp. Board and Planning Commission John Bunek

- 1) The Leland Township budget process is starting, and if we want to get any funding in that budget we need to put together a description and estimated costs of any projects we are interested in so they can be included in the budget process.
 - Need to submit request to the budget process to annually flood and maintain the Lake Leelanau skating rink
 - Would like a Warming House near to the skating rink, discussion followed regarding what was needed, from fully enclosed heated structure to a tent. We are supposed to send our ideas/preferences to John Bunek: mbunek@quixnet.net within next few days. In the subject please include **“lake Leelanau Community Association”** so Marge will notice it, otherwise the email will probably be deleted. Can also send a copy to Erik ezehender@gmail.com

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2) The Narrows Overlay District

A lot of opposition to this zoning applique which would limit development in the Narrows, at the expense of local land owners, and possibility to the well being of Lake Leelanau. General feeling was that this is government forcing something we don't want down our throat. Proponents (Lake Association) point out that it will protect the sensitive nature of the Narrows. Bunek explained that he got about 50 people to the Planning Commission meeting to express deep dislike of the overlay, and result was that the number of parcels covered was cut nearly in half. This presents a strong statement in favor of attending meetings and speaking up.

The LLCA decided that as a group it would not take a public position, but members were encouraged to speak their mind. Previously the Lake Association spent in excess of \$150000 in legal costs to limit the Provemont Village development on the Narrows, this issue has the potential of another large pie throwing contest.

3) Farmers Market

John explained that he was in contact with the Traverse City Farmers Market and provided info regarding rules n such. Erik introduced Tesha Galla a recent graduate of Grand Valley

With a degree in natural resources as a prospective Market Manager. He also explained that the regional Farm Market Association would provide insurance coverage and other assistance provided that we follow their published rules. Discussion followed regarding covering for foul weather (a bad day at the market). The parking lot across from NJ's belongs to Roger Schaub who is supportive of the market idea.

Discussion local Government issues John Amrhein MSUE

This is a second visit by John and he talked to us about dealing with the issues we face with respect to local government. For background, many feel that they are residents of Lake Leelanau but live in adjacent townships and their tax money goes to those townships, with result that little or none goes to Lake Leelanau. They are looking for ways to get more tax dollars spent in Lake Leelanau, and to gain better advantage in the political struggles that often adversely affect Lake Leelanau, in favor of Leland or Suttons Bay etc.

John pointed out that currently townships are under financial duress, and if things get bad enough, the State will appoint a Financial Manager who will take over the Township government and make decisions that will put the township budget in the black. The implication is that if we create a new Lake Leelanau Township, the Financial Manager might come knocking on our door.

Response John Amrhein Email 26 Jan 2010

“Sorry if I implied this. My intent was to illustrate the current financial difficulties in local government and communicate that what looks like a lot of money to run a local government sometimes isn't. The lesson for Lake Leelanau, or any other prospective new local government unit, is that it is a tough time to run an existing local unit, and even more so to start a new one. Intervention by

the state is not a frequent occurrence, nor do I expect it to become one. The other point of the example was that the state of Michigan is getting very serious about pushing consolidation of services in local government units.” Comment John Amrhein Email 26 Jan 2010

In addition, he pointed out that adjacent townships that would be giving up taxable real estate to a new Lake Leelanau township would fight very hard in opposition.

Before going down the road to a new government entity, John suggested a public forum at which the financial and services aspects of local government would be explained, followed by a panel discussion including the audience to establish what local government issues exist. These issues would then be evaluated and appropriate acceptable solutions would be presented to the Leland Township Board

Response John Amrhein Email 26 Jan 2010

“or other appropriate bodies”

for consideration. If that fails to satisfy then proceed with another option, which could be for example a new Lake Leelanau Township.

Discussed a joint Planning Commission with representatives from adjacent townships. This would concentrate attention on the Lake Leelanau area and give us more control over zoning regulations. At the same time there is a question regarding how decisions would be made (planning commissions cannot make any final decisions) and what bias the adjacent township members would bring to the table.

Erik proposed that we get about 50 maple trees through Glen Noonan to plant around the area. The cost is negligible. We would plant them and care for them until they can survive on their own. It was agreed to go ahead with this idea.

Decided that it is necessary to remove the “welcome to Lake Leelanau” sign at the corner of M204 and CR641 at the East side of Lake Leelanau. The sign will be stored and later it will be put back up after restoration or redesign next spring.

Thanks to Tony and Gordie Belanger for taking down the Christmas lights

It was agreed that Erik would attend a township meeting on behalf of the association along with a future township rep. Amber Bingham and John Buneck had volunteered.

Meeting adjourned about 10:15PM