

Minutes
Aug. 27, 2011
Board Meeting
Fish and Royer Lakes Association
At the Deetz residence, Fish Lake

Present: Cheryl Albergo, Joe Albergo, Pam Deetz, Marshall Doig, Norine Doig, Joy Grose, Betty Hemlinger, TJ Hemlinger, Teresa Kirk, Carol Massat, Helmuth Massat

1. Minutes of the General Meeting were approved.
2. Norine Doig made the treasurer's report. Our balance currently is \$2736.93, with 98 paid memberships. Last year, in November, we had 134 paid memberships.
3. We anticipate the walleye stocking to cost approximately \$2100. This will bring our balance down to only \$600, not considering any additional expenses. We currently estimate that covering the fish stocking program requires 150 paid members per year. We are currently well below that number. The Board keeps all expenses at a bare bones minimum, with Dave Arrington donating printing of the newsletters, hand delivery, rather than mailing of newsletters, donations for the picnic and so on.
4. NIPSCO petitions were turned in to Norine. She is making copies. Carol and Helmuth Massat will check the copies against the list of homeowners for followup with those who have not signed. Norine will contact NIPSCO and turn over our first installment of petitions. We will send another installment to NIPSCO after followup.
5. Joy Grose, Doug Bowlby, Kathy Wirth, Teresa Kirk and many others have done extensive work in getting signatures on the NIPSCO petitions. Their efforts are much appreciated. The availability of natural gas will be a benefit to residents who choose to have the service, as it is cheaper than propane. Signing the petition does not commit anyone to getting NIPSCO service. Demonstrating support will make this available to lake community members who choose it. Without this expression of support, it will be available to no one.
6. Road captain coverage was reviewed. Carol and Helmuth Massat agreed to extend their route past the A frame. Dave McAllister will be asked to cover a section of Fish Lake that is not being reached currently.
7. Brainstorming took place of ideas for increasing membership. We have lost 36 members this year. Several ideas were brought forward:
 - a. The association funding neighborhood signs and furnishing signs for members (like the sign at the corner of 445 E. and 200 S.)
 - b. A motion was made and carried to provide a Fish and Royer Lakes Association higher education scholarship to be awarded annually to a member in the amount of \$250. These funds could be used by a resident student, a son or daughter, or a grandchild for college, a trade school, or other post-secondary education or training. Applications for the scholarship will be made available in the spring, with a deadline of March 31st. Norine Doig, TJ Hemlinger and Carol Massat will review the applications.
 - c. A second motion was made and carried to provide two \$25 scholarships for school materials for a lake association member's student of choice. Two scholarships would be available. For elementary school students, the students would be asked to make a drawing of the lake, or nature features around the lake, such as birds or fish. Middle school students will be asked to write an essay about the importance of education.
 - d. Contests will take place for best shoreline, prettiest garden, best kept house, for members only. Winners will be featured in the newsletter.

- e. In general, benefits that have been made available to all members of the lake community will become available only to lake association members. For those with hardship circumstances, offers have been made that some Board members will provide member scholarships for people who cannot afford the \$20 annual dues.
 - f. An annual Swap Meet was proposed, with members offering and asking for items that they want or do not want.
8. Fundraisers were discussed. Our first silent auction brought in \$300. Marshall Doig is chairing the silent auction committee for next year, which will feature some big ticket items.
 9. Cookbooks are now available and are rapidly selling out the first edition. 79 copies were booked at the picnic and hog roast. The books are beautiful. Many thanks to Pam Deetz for this wonderful contribution to our lake community. Cookbooks are hard covers, with photos of our lakes, tips, and fantastic recipes.
 10. The Board is promoting a "Blow the Whistle" campaign. When residents observe violations of boating laws, they are asked to blow a whistle at the offending boat. Violations include speeding, creating a wake or wash within 200 feet of the shoreline, passengers or pets riding on the front of a pontoon boat, intoxicated boat pilots, underage boat pilots and so on. If residents observe multiple violations, please take down the boat registration number and call the DNR. If possible, take a picture on your phone or digital camera. It was noted that, because Royer Lake is so narrow, there is virtually no area of the lake that it is legal to create a wash/wake. These wakes damage the shoreline.
 11. Helmuth Massat reported on the meeting of the Lagrange County Lakes Council. He noted the report made by Dave Arrington on his work on the Pigeon River watershed. A member of the Steuben County Lakes Council also reported on the E coli present in Steuben County lakes. In Steuben County 80% of property taxes come from lake properties. Damage to lake environments could significantly decrease property values, and the economy of the entire region. So, concern for the environment of our lakes makes good business sense for our area.
 12. Betty Hemlinger proposed that another sign be created for the public access that informed boaters of more of the boating regulations (in addition to the speed limit).
 13. The next board meetings are set for Sept. 16, Oct. 15, Nov. 12th, and December 17th. Lake association members are welcome to attend any Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Massat