

# Pretty Lake Conservation Club

## May ~ 4, 2021

### Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President, Scott Alexander.

Prayer led by Tom Tassler

Followed by Pledge of Allegiance

**Board Members Present:** Scott Alexander, Chris Alexander, Ken Hensch, Andy Scheidler, Tom Tassler, Natalie McLaughlin, Nancy Wetli, Beth Pusti, Gregg Wattier, Cary Fries, Sue Mertz, Ken Butler.

**Absent:** Dan Martin, Robert Burns

**Minutes:** Secretary, Beth Pusti asked if everyone had a chance to review the Minutes from the last meeting held on April 13, 2021. Everyone indicated they had and saw no problems. Sue Mertz made a motion to approve. Andy Scheidler second the motion. By unanimous vote the April 13, 2021 Minutes were approved. They are displayed in the case at the clubhouse as well as on the website.

**Treasurers Report:** Ken Butler was present and wanted to thank Sue Mertz for giving him so much help over the last several months, as he has been fighting personal health issues. Transaction Reports were handed out from October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 which included primarily expenses with utilities, clubhouse insurance, and the aquatic weed survey in November.

Ken also passed out the current Transaction Report April 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021. The April report included 2 utility bills paid as expenses in the amount of \$113.60. The report showed deposits of \$7,555.00 from 2021 membership dues, and contributions. Bank balance as of April 30, 2021 was \$44,626.36.

Upcoming expenses will be from the outlet project, 2021 weed control project, as well as annual mowing agreement for the clubhouse. The 2021 July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend flares have been purchased. Ken told the Board that with nothing being done to the clubhouse in improvements the cost to maintain the clubhouse annually is about \$5,000.00 with utilities and insurance. Ken Hensch made a motion to Approve the Treasurers Report, with a Second from Sue Mertz. All agreed. Treasurer's report passed unanimously. Scott Alexander asked if we could get future financial reports with a notation to indicate approved project expenses that are yet to be paid.

Ken Butler stated the Audit was completed Monday, May 3, 2020. He will file State and Federal taxes this week. Ken said a Business Entity report needs to be filled out every other year. He will look into if this is currently due for completion.

Ken Butler also told the Board we need to nominate and approve a new Treasurer. He will need to step down for personal health reasons. It is with great sadness that the Board will be losing such a dedicated and important member of our Board. This will not be an easy position to fill. Ken has given many years of service and we understand his need to focus on health and family at this time. Ken indicated he will work with the new Treasurer to help prepare them and answer questions.

**Membership Report:** Chris Alexander passed out for review the current membership report. Currently 44% of cottages have paid the 2021 dues. Chris will send a list to zone directors of those not paid to encourage or remind them.

Total counted Cottages 233

Currently paid Cottages 103

Unpaid Cottages 130

Percent of Cottages Paid 44%

Dues paid \$2,875.00

Additional Contributions to lake enhancement or clubhouse projects \$6,170.00

Thank you to all those who have paid their 2021 dues. We could not maintain the clubhouse or help with invasive weed control and lake enhancements without the help of members. Your dues and donations are vital and we appreciate you.

**PLCC Rentals/Clubhouse Report:** Natalie McLaughlin handed out copies of the rental agreement we use at our last meeting and asked everyone to look it over for possible changes to be made. We increased the cleaning deposit from \$50.00 to \$100.00. She asked if after looking the rental contract over if we saw any other changes that needed to be made. No one indicated a need for further change at this time. Natalie reported two more rentals for the year bringing the total to nine at this time. Nancy Wetli asked about a neighbor who would like to use the clubhouse August 21 for a meeting. The Board indicated they would have to rent the clubhouse. This is a weekend and would take the date off the table for other possible rentals on that day.

**Peggy Tassler:** Pretty Lake resident and area Artist, Peggy Tassler indicated an interest is using the clubhouse to host a painting class for the community. Her first thought had been to use the old vintage windows that were removed from the clubhouse. Upon further inspection the windows are in bad of shape and would require to much repair to use for this event. Peggy presented to the Board several ideas using reclaimed wood or canvas and several subject options. Peggy would provide the expertise and materials for the class at a charge of \$40.00 per person. After much discussion the Board seemed to like the idea of using the Clubhouse for a community event such as this but indicated we still needed to receive something from it to cover general maintenance, insurance costs of the building. The Board agreed to allow this 2–3-hour class in the clubhouse if Peggy could tag on \$5.00 per person to her fee to pay for clubhouse rental.

Sue Mertz made a Motion to allow Community Painting Class held by Peggy Tassler for the first 40 people to sign up. Peggy will charge \$45.00 for adults 16 and over, \$25.00 for ages 12-15. This class will be held Saturday, June 5, 2021 at 1:00pm.

\$5.00 of each participant's fee will go to clubhouse rental.

Beth Pusti second the Motion, all Board members approved unanimously.

**Yoga Instruction:** Andy Scheidler asked about an interest his sister-inlaw has in using the PLCC property to hold a yoga class. His sister is a certified yoga instructor and would like to use the outside grounds to hold a yoga class. They would need to access to the clubhouse for bathroom use only. The Board seemed to all think the use of the clubhouse for community events such as this yoga class or the painting class are a great idea and the reason the clubhouse exists to bring the community together. The PLCC would need to be compensated somehow for the general use and maintenance. We are open to looking into being able to host these kinds of things. Andy indicated his sister would possibly be open to presenting the Board her ideas further at our next meeting June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Cecily Rorick:** Cecily will be renting the clubhouse for the July 10, Memorial to her husband and our former PLCC President, Denny Rorick who passed away last fall. The Board discussed possible ways we could help or honor Denny. We will make a decision at a later time when we know more about what Cecily has planned. Ken Hensch will follow up with Cecily and will keep the Board informed.

**Clubhouse Maintenance:** Natalie indicated the toilets and bathroom sinks are slow and not working properly. They were checked out and were operational but it was advised that someone needs to go on the roof and check the vent. A snake needs to be used to try to clear the drains. Tom Tassler and Cary Fries offered to look at this.

Tom did not have a set of keys to the clubhouse yet and Natalie provided him with a set of spare keys. Tom and Cary will report back to Scott what they find.

**Review of 2021 Assignments:** Scott Alexander went over the May events and we talked about modifications for current CDC guidelines. Currently LaGrange County is in Orange status which means no more than 25 masked people in an indoor facility. We have Bingo/ Root Beer Floats coming up Memorial weekend. We decided to try a Beach, Blanket, Bingo night weather permitting on the

clubhouse outdoor grounds. We will use the outside patio, and microphone to call the Bingo from. Members will be encouraged to bring blankets or their portable chairs to sit with their family on the clubhouse grounds to play bingo. We will serve root beer floats from the clubhouse. We will move the time from 7pm start to 6 pm start time.

The May 31, Memorial Day breakfast is a longer event and everyone is not at the clubhouse at the same time. People come and go. At this point we will still hold the Memorial Day Breakfast under CDC guidelines. If there are changes an email will go out to the membership.

**Newsletter idea & articles:** Chris Alexander is working on the MAY/JUNE Newsletter and asked that Beth Pusti write an article highlighting 2020, and Looking forward to 2021. Chris is combining months where possible so if anyone has anything to add to the newsletter, please get information to her.

**Update on emails, newsletters, website:** Andy will try to keep membership informed by email when changes to the event schedule occur. Beth Pusti will get flash drives to him from past years Minutes so all records of the club are in one central location. We talked about sometimes when people list things for sale on the website we are not informed if they sold and they remain on the website for an indefinite period. In an effort to keep things current we will limit listing sale items To 30-day limit. If an item is still for sale the owner needs to resubmit a request.

**Goose Round-Up:** Sue Mertz has the DNR permit for the 2021 goose round-up. She reported that the DNR guidelines and paperwork is becoming more restrictive and not as easy to obtain as in the past. Doug Crawford is getting the trailer, and Mongo is accepting the geese again this year. The Mertz's will be out of town this year on the event day and Ken Butler is usually the co-chair. The property normally used for the round-up sold and owner is moving so we are unsure at this point if this property will be available to use. We are counting on members who have been able to help Doug in the past to help him this year also.

**Outlet Project:** Scott Alexander talked with Jim Mertz who is heading up this project for the PLCC. After looking at the original recommendations, talking to experts, and finding ways to reduce costs the Board approved this Cardno recommended lake enhancement project last Fall. Jim has received the permit and met with DNR experts at the site who confirmed there has been significant erosion taking place. Scott wanted to make sure there was no further discussion after a member sent an email to the Board with an opposing viewpoint. Jim wrote up a review, updating the Board on progress, the findings of the study, and the work required. The Board stands by its decision.

**Report on E-Coli Deal Ditch from Butch Vaughn:** Scott Alexander passed out a report from Butch Vaughn on the Deal Ditch cleanup. Butch said in the report that he has kept in touch with Steve Vaughn and Zack Holsinger (surveyors office). The cleaning and dredging of the ditch have been completed from its origin to where it crosses 400S. The excavator did not find any suspicious tiles/drains coming into the ditch while completing the work. The cleaning of the banks and dredging of the ditch bed has greatly improved water flow that should eliminate stagnant pools of water forming. The ditch will be monitored to make sure the proper water flow is maintained. Butch talked to Martin Franke (Soil and Water Dist.) in April and the plan is to do water testing in late June and July. This time period was when we were experiencing high e-coli numbers last year. This will give us a good comparison as to whether we have made any improvements by cleaning the ditch. Butch said the Health Department will get involved again with testing of a few remaining residential septic systems as well as additional water testing. All of this is contingent on the easing of the pandemic. Steve Vaughn indicated that more discussion/research about cleaning/dredging of the ditch on 400S could be a possibility if this summers numbers are not greatly improved. Butch will update the PLCC Board after we get the test results.

**Pretty Lake Merchandise:** Depending on the events and pandemic Nancy Wetli indicated that she can set up a store online and hopes to have merchandise to sell Memorial weekend at events. Nancy has worked with Emily Kitchen who has donated her time and original graphic art skills for new designs that we hope will appeal to all age groups. Sales from the PL car stickers are all profit at this point.

**New Board Members:** Two PLCC Board Member positions are now open due to the death Of Denny Rorick, and Ken Butler stepping down for personal health reasons. Both men were long time members. Their experience and knowledge will be very hard to replace. Scott Alexander talked about the vital need to appoint a new Treasurer in Ken Butlers place as a priority. Sue Mertz has been helping Ken and is secondary on the bank account already but would rather not take on this position. As we look for a member who is willing to step into this vital PLCC role Beth Pusti moved that Sue Mertz be made interim Treasurer. Tom Tassler second the motion. Motion approved. No one opposed. In the meantime, we need to look for someone in the membership who is willing to take on this role. Two Board members absent from tonight's meeting led us to delay the vote for a Vice President until the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

#### **Round Table Discussion:**

**Nancy Wetli:** There is a PL Book club. Many may not know about it and they do use the clubhouse on occasion. You can contact her if interested in more information.

**Natalie McLaughlin:** She has received an email from Soaring Hawks about possibly doing a demonstration at the clubhouse. We have had this group in the past usually at the Conservation Fair which currently is not on the event calendar but she will reply to their email to hear what they have in mind.

Cathy Kantorak asked if she could do flowers at the clubhouse entrance. Which we thought was a great idea.

**Chris Alexander:** Had some questions on the phone directories. Many people moving in and out. The Directories are done every 3 years. In the interim we talked about possibly a once-a-year update of new residents in one of the summer newsletters. Ken Hensch reminded the Board that if more directories are needed, they can be printed.

Ring of Fire flares can be purchased from Board Members or Zone Directors. \$2.50 each/ 4 for \$10.00. we hope to have them available by Memorial Weekend events.

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Tom Tassler, Second from Ken Hensch. No one opposed.