

**Pretty Lake Conservation Club  
Pretty Lake, LaGrange County, Indiana  
Minutes of the May 3, 2022 Board Meeting**

The regular monthly meeting of the Pretty Lake Conservation Club was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the clubhouse of the Pretty Lake Conservation Club.

Board members present were: Scott Alexander, Chris Alexander, Cary Fries, Sue Mertz, Craig Bobay, Andy Scheidler, Tom Tassler, Natalie McLaughlin, John Stemmler, Beth Pusti, Cathy Kantorak, and Barb Butler.

Board members absent were: Bob Burns.

Agenda: The updated agenda was distributed, and was approved (Craig's motion, John's second) without objection.

Board Minutes: On Beth's motion, with Sue's second, the minutes of the April meeting were read and approved, as corrected.

Craig handed out and discussed "General Tips for Board Meeting Etiquette." (Attached.)

Treasurer's Report: Sue distributed and briefly discussed the treasurer's report. The Club continues to maintain a healthy balance. A brief discussion was conducted about relatively small expenses being requested for PLCC purposes by Committee Chairpersons. The board's consensus was that necessary, but minor purchase could be made by the Committee Chairs without prior Board approval, and then the Chair could seek reimbursement for those minor expenses at the next regular meeting. Craig moved to approve the treasurer's report, Tom seconded, and the report was unanimously approved.

Membership Committee Report: Barb reported that membership fee income was flowing in fairly well. Just under 50% of approximately 235 lake residences have paid the fees so far for 2022. Sue presented comments and suggestions made by members when the membership fees were sent, such as discouraging political activity during PLCC sponsored events, and encouraging the board to make clubhouse improvements.

Clubhouse Committee Report: Kathy reported 6 rentals are reserved so far for 2022. The board approved Amanda Parr's request (made by Andy) to use the clubhouse for Yoga classes again this summer. Amanda will coordinate the dates of the classes (typically held twice each week) and will donate 20% of the Yoga class income to the PLCC. Peggy Tassler was present to talk about her proposed painting class, to be held at the clubhouse June 11. The class typically lasts about 3 hours, and Peggy will donate \$5 per student to the PLCC. Barb and Kathy will meet with Peggy to select the art project. On Sue's motion, with Chris's second, these requests by Amanda and Peggy were unanimously approved by the board. The board also approved Kathy's

request that she be permitted to purchase signs telling walkers to pick up their dog poop.

Clubhouse Renovations Subcommittee: Scott reported that he, Kathy, and John will form this committee, which was authorized last month “to make recommendations to the board for improvements (such as exterior, kitchen, and plumbing).” Scott will possibly add other PLCC members to this subcommittee. The goal is to make the recommendations to the board by June, so that the recommendations can be shared with the membership at the July 16 General Meeting.

Guests: Scott introduced guests, Neal and Lydia Wolheter, who asked to be permitted to address the board in a good-faith effort to explain a proposed development at Pretty Lake. Neal and Lydia are husband and wife, local realtors and farmers, who live about 5 miles south of Pretty Lake. They own and presently farm about 20 acres on County Road S. 890 E., across the road from the Pretty Lake DNR Public Access. This area was formerly the Goodpastor strawberry farm. They have owned the land for about 9 years, and have recently petitioned the LaGrange Co. Planning Commission for approval of a 22-lot residential subdivision on that land, which they intend to call “Strawberry Acres.” The Planning Commission meets to hear the proposal and take public comment on May 23 at 7:00 pm. They said that single-family residences only are planned, not apartments, not a campground, and not a mobile home park. They said that no re-zoning of the land is required. Covenants and restrictions are being considered, and they are open to hearing what the local area residents might want to see in those restrictions. They provided an 8-page handout detailing the proposed development (attached). They plan to develop the subdivision in two phases. This would include construction of a new road approximately extending the north section of C.R. 895 E., and another private access lane off of C.R. 500 S. Sewer lines will be required by the County. Water will be obtained by wells. The development plan includes 2 ponds/water retention areas. They own and intend to sell an easement for a 10-foot pier that is publicly recorded, located next to 4869 S. C.R. 890 E. They own just one of the three easements in that area on the western most of the 2 channels in that corner of the lake. They said this is a one-boat pier easement, and funneling is not permitted. Board members asked many questions regarding the proposed development and its impact on our lake, including the areas of: noise, traffic, sewage, pollution, runoff, funneling, increased use of the lake and of the DNR public access, minimum square footage, lot costs and building cost estimates, road maintenance, stick-built vs. manufactured housing, environmental impact study, utilities, quality of life, wildlife impact, and whether a need really exist for a development. They were asked that as they go forward with this plan, if they must, they please keep in mind the concerns of our lake community. The Wolheters promised they would do so. After the presentation, the consensus of the board was to not take any action on behalf of the PLCC, as although some issues might be somewhat related to the stated purpose of the PLCC, the concerns should be raised to our elected and appointed LaGrange County officials by individual Pretty Lake area community members. The board believes that all Pretty Lake residents who have concerns about the proposed housing development should attend the May 23 LaGrange County Plan Commission meeting to listen to the proposal

and raise those concerns with our elected and appointed county authorities. Concerns may also be addressed directly to the Wohleters. Lydia may be contacted at (260) 668-1541, and Neal at (260) 336-2219.

Communications (newsletter, website, Facebook, email distribution): Chris reported that the next newsletter will go out near the end of May. Andy's suggestion that he tweak the PLCC website for ease of use and keeping the content fresh was approved. At the June meeting, the board will discuss managing the PLCC Facebook page.

Merchandise Committee: John emailed some possible designs and materials for 2022 PLCC merch. He will send out more ideas in a few days. He would like the board members to get back with him on those suggestions. He will not be able to sell the merch at the Memorial Day events. Kathy volunteered to help in John's absence.

Other Items:

- Flares: Scott reported that the cost of flares for the Circle of Fire has increased. The board unanimously decided to keep the cost of flares for our residents to \$2.50 per flare.

- Reader Board: Scott and Chris are looking into purchasing a new reader board. Barb said she would contact the new owner of the lot where the reader board is located to seek permission for our continued use at that location.

- Goose roundup: Craig has filed and obtained the permit for the goose relocation, set for June 11. The DNR states that after hatching, goslings are incapable of flight for about 70 days, when the young and parents graze near the hatching area. This is typically from mid-June to late July, and this is when relocation should occur. In Indiana, flocks break up into pairs for nesting in mid-to late February. Nesting activities begin from mid-March through late April. The DNR also suggest we should consider adopting a "No Feeding Wildlife" policy. Feeding waterfowl is a major reason why geese are attracted to certain areas and remain there for long periods of time, which can cause problems. People feeding ducks and geese is bad for the geese and for humans, for many reasons, as the DNR website describes. Our regional DNR biologist also stated: "While it is true that Canada geese (like all wildlife) carry various diseases and that fecal matter is unsightly and can be costly to remove, current research does not support goose to human transmission of diseases."

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Next meeting: June 7, at 6:30 pm.

Prepared by: Craig J. Bobay