

**Sunset Lake Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2024**

Board Members present: Pat Quigley, Nola Knight, Peg Milosevich, Barb O'Brien, Katie Simenson

Unable to attend: Kevin Weslaski

Called to Order: Pat called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approve Minutes from last meeting: The minutes from the July 24th Board meeting were approved.

Old Business:

Milfoil Diver Review – the Aquatic Plant Management provided a report on the results of the milfoil removal. Not only was it extremely successful, but the team also reported that Sunset Lake is one of their favorite lakes (which we already know) because it was clear, warm and had a soft bottom. They removed 192 cubic feet of EWM during their 5-day engagement. We also discussed the need to do it again next year to keep up the great progress.

Director & Officer Insurance – we have renewed the insurance (\$580 annually), effective until 10/25/25.

Financial Report:

Current Bank Balance - \$1,547.38

EWM Project Donation Update - \$14,306.74 (\$13,776.64 invoice for 2024 work). The difference will provide the foundation for 2025.

New Business:

Fundraising Ideas

Community Foundation of Central WI Grant Application (due 10/31/24) – Barb is currently working on the 5-year grant of \$15,000 in year 1, and will decrease by 20% each year. (\$12,000 year 2, \$9,000 year 3, etc.)

DNR Grant Application (due 9/15/25) – this grant would be for 2026.

Town of New Hope to Co-sponsor DNR Grant – Pat met with the Town of New Hope Board and asked if it was feasible for them to partner with us for the grant. They enthusiastically said YES, they were happy to help, and they will take the lead.

Forming a Grant Application Committee – we discussed the potential of creating a Grant Application committee and agreed that it made sense. Pat will send out an email of the membership requesting volunteers.

Long Term Plans for milfoil control – we discussed the need to continue the work on milfoil. We used professional divers for 5 days this year and would like to use them for 5 days in 2025 to keep the momentum going. We would determine what is appropriate in 2026 – perhaps tapering off.

A long-term goal under consideration for 4-5 years out is the DNR Clean Boats, Clean Waters Boat Washing station with inspectors. We would coordinate, hire and/or provide volunteers. From the WI Clean Boats, Clean Waters website:

“Clean Boats, Clean Waters is a watercraft inspection program in Wisconsin. The program allows people throughout the state to take a front-line defense against the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Through this program, inspectors educate boaters about invasive species, perform boat and trailer checks for AIS, and report new infestations. To help prevent the spread of AIS in Wisconsin waters, everyone should follow these prevention steps, required by Wisconsin state law:

- Inspect boats, trailers and equipment
- Remove all attached aquatic plants and animals
- Drain all water from boats, vehicles and equipment, including livewells and buckets containing fish
- Never move plants or live fish away from a waterbody
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash”

More information to come.

Open Membership to Portage County Residents greater than 1 mile from Sunset Lake - We all agreed that we would like to open membership to a broader audience – residents of Portage County who also enjoy the lake. It would require a change in the by-laws which could occur at the annual meeting in January. We also discussed ways to advertise the opportunity like posting information on the Town of New Hope display by the beach and Facebook.

Open Discussion:

There were no additional agenda items.

Next Meeting Date

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th at 7:00. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Purcell Milosevich

