

Lake Tippecanoe Property Owners, Inc.
Board Minutes
February 16, 2008

The Board of Directors of the Lake Tippecanoe Property Owners, Inc. held its February board meeting at the North Webster Community Center on the 16th day of February, 2008. President Dave Swart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Changes & Additions to Agenda—Dan Drook requested the Pie-Eyed Petey’s zoning issued be added to Old Business.

Secretary’s Report—*Approved as written.*

Treasurer’s Report—Linda Schwartz presented the treasurer’s report. Linda reported that dues payments are starting to come in. Jim Newcombe asked when the books were last audited. Linda replied that the books are audited yearly prior to the annual meeting, with the auditors report presented at the meeting. *Approved as written.*

Committee Reports

Aquatic Plant Management/Dredging—Holly LaSalle reported that she has received the permits for weed treatment from the DNR for the three lakes. Holly said we still need to find out if we are getting our grant money and after that we will need to solicit for bids. After we accept a bid, we will have the survey done and proceed with treatment if we have the funds to do so. Dave Swart asked what our time table is for funds. Holly responded that we need to know by March.

Constitution & By-Laws (Ad Hoc-Tax Exempt)—No report.

Dinner Dance—Linda Schwartz reported that she received a call from Sally Doll, who said the date for the Dinner Dance has been changed from August 9th to August 2nd. This year instead of a Dinner Dance, it will be Dinner and a Show. Sally said that they are working on getting a production company who does shows for Zimmer and other companies in the area. Susan Hayes reported that Sally also said that Bob List Photography will be taking pictures of the guests free of charge.

Directory—Jim Hayes presented the new spiral bound format of this year’s member directory for those who missed the January meeting. Jim explained that we are now offering ¼, ½, and full-page ads. All ad sizes have the option of black & white or full-color. Jim said the ads are coming in slowly and asked if someone would be available to make reminder phone calls to the businesses. Jim reported that he has already received the history article, with pictures, from Mary Linda Scott, who wrote the article. Jim said he is working on formatting the article for the directory. Jim said he has not yet received an article from TELWF or anything for the LTPO Year in Review article. Jim said that we are still accepting photos for possible use on the front cover and Joann Boyer has offered to design the front cover once again.

Fireworks—Bob Schwartz reported that the date for the fireworks has been changed to Friday, July 4th. Jim Hayes mentioned that he thought there was a previous motion made to hold the fireworks on Saturday. Bob stated that a benefit of having the fireworks on Friday is that Saturday can be used as a rain date.

Fish & Wildlife—No report.

Fish Fry—Kevin Robie said he will be looking at getting some sponsors to sponsor certain parts of the fish fry this year, which is something that hasn’t been done before. Kevin said they should have that in place in April. Kevin said that everything is set up with Dan’s Fish Fry and they don’t anticipate a big increase, if any at all, in pricing. The date is set for Saturday, June 28th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Flotilla—No report.

Government Relations—Glenna Shelby handed out copies of her report. Glenna said that right now it's all about property tax reform. Glenna said she didn't put any of the property tax bills on her report because the numbers and strategy are changing almost weekly. Glenna said that after Wednesday, February 20th, we can go on-line and view HB1001 which is going to be the main property tax bill. Virtually everything is going to be packed into that single bill, the strategy being to keep legislators from voting for some things and against others. By lumping everything in one bill, they have to take the whole package. The items on Glenna's written report are bills specific to lake interests. The prohibition on phosphorus in home dishwasher detergent bill is moving and Glenna feels certain it will pass. Of the bills that came out the Lake Management Workgroup, SB39, Responsibility for Implementing the Financial Resources Doctrine, has not been heard in committee in the second house but has until Thursday, February 21st to do so. Glenna said that last she heard, it had not been scheduled for committee hearing, but that doesn't mean it won't be put on the schedule on Monday. SB40 has become a little controversial due to some potential unintended consequences of the way it is drafted. The residents on Lake Wawasee are very concerned that a property owner's right to have a pier under an exemption could expire when they sell the home. That can be done under the current language of the bill, which extinguishes a permit or a use under an exemption under the statute as it's proposed. They are working on some language to make clear that they are not referring to taking away a homeowner's rights, but are looking at other abuses, such as some commercial folks who have virtually closed in the lake with their pier arrangements. Glenna called our attention to another bill of interest, the constitutional amendment to proclaim constitutionally the right to hunt and fish. This bill passed the Senate with only 5 dissenting votes, but has been assigned to the House Rules Committee. That bill will not come out of that committee unless something very interesting happens. Dave Swart asked Glenna to explain SB0307, the permit to disclose social security numbers. Glenna said this is for Uniform Commercial Code purposes of the secretary of state's office and has a very limited application. Bev Ganshorn said she was in Indianapolis and had the opportunity to speak to a number of our representatives. She said we have a tendency to feel like we are just one person and that our opinion doesn't matter. Bev said the representatives she spoke to said they do read their e-mails and they do listen to public opinion. The representatives said that often bills are presented in such a fashion that they do not know the underlying consequences, so they do need our opinions. Glenna said the website to view these bills is www.in.gov/legislative then put in the bill number.

Lake Honoree—No report.

LTPO Lakeshore Development—Dave Tyler reported that the Lakeshore Development committee has not met in the last 30 days and there is nothing new or under way at the present time.

Membership—Susan Hayes reported that we are currently at 741 members. Susan said dues statements are coming in pretty quickly.

Public Relations—No report.

Safe Boating—No report.

TELWF—Bob Schwartz reported that he and several TELWF board members attended a day-long governance and fundraising workshop in Wabash put on the I.U. School of Philanthropy. Bob said they learned a lot that day. Bob also reported that Jane Loomis, who lives in the eastern part of our watershed and works as a professional managing the St. Joe River, has taken over the leadership of our watershed committee which is in charge of projects. Bob said things are moving along and they are starting to get some projects lined up for this summer. Bob mentioned, for those who haven't heard, that TELWF has moved their offices to the N. Webster Community Center.

Water Quality—Holly LaSalle said we still haven't received a report back from I.U., but it should be coming any day.

Water Safety—Joe Westendorf reported that we have been offered a 1999 Rinker boat, a little larger than the one we have now with more horsepower, for under \$10,000. Joe said this boat has been in storage and is like new. Joe suggested that perhaps we should shelve the purchase of the new Triumph boat for now and purchase this Rinker. Joe also suggested we consider keeping the old Rinker and put a patrol boat on James Lake. Joe reported that our lake patrol will be expected to spend time on the boat ramps this year checking boats going in and coming out for registrations and safety items. Steve Matthias expressed concerns about the Rinker boat being an inboard and having more maintenance concerns, as well as not having the visibility that the center console Triumph does. Steve questioned whether we needed the larger Triumph that Jon had a quote on, but feels strongly that we need a center console boat.

Jeff Thornburgh feels that purchasing the Rinker would be a stop-gap measure and could possibly derail our fundraising efforts. Linda Schwartz looked back at the records for the purchase of the Triumph boat 5 years ago. The purchase price was \$12,750 and we paid \$800 for things that Jon Tyler had to add to the boat. Jim Newcombe asked what is wrong with the old Rinker boat and could it go back to Rinker for repair. Joe said it worked fine for him last year, but it acts like a drag racer when it takes off and will put you back in your seat so you have to hang on tightly to the steering wheel. Gary said it has been back to the factory twice for restoration. Gary said there is concern that the boat is almost 20 years old and it is getting more difficult to find parts for. Discussion followed. Holly LaSalle asked if anyone had looked into the possibility of financing or leasing a new boat as suggested at the last board meeting. Dave Swart responded that Jon checked with the Sheriff's Department and they did not want to get involved in that type of arrangement, especially since we have to transfer title over to them. More discussion followed. Dave Tyler commented that the board is trying to have a water safety committee meeting and that we need to stop doing that. Dave said we need leave it up to them to come to us with a recommendation and when they do, we need to consider it. Dave said we all have opinions about what the water safety committee and the lake patrol should be doing, but he doesn't feel that it is productive. Dave Swart suggested the water safety committee come back to us with several proposals and some options.

Buoys—No report.

Website—Jim Hayes reported that he added a box to link directly to the membership application.

Old Business

Aquatic Plant Management Fund—Dave Swart reported that he hopes we will soon have a fundraiser mailing to go out to all lake residents. Dave said that we will probably receive LARE grant money of \$20,000, but that the weed fund balance is currently -\$24,000. Dave said he is looking for suggestions and will be meeting with the president of the Hamilton Lake Association for funding ideas when he gets back from Florida in March. Dave said Hamilton Lake spent about \$140,000 on weed treatments in 2007. Dave said Sullivan Lake is raising money with bingo. Holly LaSalle commented that we can't pay ourselves back with the \$20,000 from the LARE grant; it has to pay for weed treatments. Jim Hayes expressed concern over comments by members that they would not continue to participate in the weed funding program unless more of the lake residents participated. Jeff Thornburgh said that he feels the weed program will gain momentum as Dave promotes it in the newsletter and thinks it would help for landing directors to go house to house in March or April with a flier in hand. Jim Newcombe asked when we need to have funding for treatment. Holly responded that a survey will be done on March 15th for curly-leaf pondweed because it is the first weed to appear in the spring. The cost of curly-leaf treatment will be \$33,800 and would be treated the first week in April and we need to have the money on hand. The DNR does not pay for curly-leaf treatment. Linda Schwartz feels we should not get too hung up over the \$24,000 deficit in the weed fund. Linda said we have always spent more on weeds than what we had on hand from the few donations we would receive for weed control. Linda feels we should be looking at the general fund, which is where most of the weed funding has come from in the past. Discussion followed regarding how the special funds and the general fund work. Jeff Thornburgh feels that if we need to draw off the general fund to supplement this weed treatment, the board should discuss it, make a decision, and give Holly some direction. Holly said the board may not meet again before the grant money comes in and she will need to make some decisions. Bob Schwartz suggested, due to the timing issues, that the board authorize the executive committee to make a decision once we know what is in the weed fund, what our LARE grant will be, and what the cost of treatment will be. Gary said that we have a \$15,000 limitation on a single expenditure from non-allocated funds. Holly said that would not cover the cost of the curly-leaf treatment. ***Bob Schwartz moved that we authorize the executive committee to spend up to \$15,000 from the general fund, plus whatever money is in the weed fund for treatment of curly-leaf pondweed. Dave Tyler seconded the motion.*** Discussion followed. ***Bob amended his motion to state that the board will authorize the executive committee to make the decision to spend on weed control up to \$15,000 from the general fund, plus an amount not to exceed this year's contributions to the weed fund. Dave Tyler seconded the motion. Dave Swart called for a vote and the motion was passed.***

Pie-Eyed Petey's Zoning—Dan Drook reported that it seems inevitable that Pie-Eyed Petey's will be zoned as commercial. Dan said that means that should they decide to sell the property, it can become anything within the guidelines. Dan commented that the guidelines are so broad as to be destructive to the lake. Dan reported that the zoning board told the two attorneys involved to find a way to meet in the middle on this issue. Dan said he believes that

“meet in the middle” means that it will be zoned commercial, but that they won’t be granted their liquor license, which means Pie-Eyed Petey’s won’t last and will be sold. Dan said that means the property will be open to all kinds of opportunities that may not be lake-related. Dave Tyler commented that at the last board meeting the board approved a motion that LTPO would take no position regarding this issue and asked if we are going to change that stance. Dave Swart replied that we were not. Dan stated that the next meeting of the zoning board is in March and said that it is very important that we, as individuals, participate in the next zoning board meeting if we don’t agree with what is going on.

New Business

Weevil Fund—Dave Swart reported that there is a balance of \$2,440 in the weevil fund at TELWF. Dave said this is an inactive fund and Dave would like to see this balance moved to the weed control fund. *Connie Anthony moved to move the balance in the weevil fund to the Tippecanoe weed treatment fund.* Gary Calhoun commented that the weevil fund was discussed at the last TELWF meeting. Gary said that according to the TELWF by-laws, they have the ability to move money from an inactive fund to another fund that is similar in nature. Gary said TELWF did not want to do this without input from the group that solicited for those funds. Gary said they are really TELWF’s funds, but we would essentially be suggesting, recommending, or requesting to TELWF that they move the money from the inactive fund to the Tippy weed control fund. *Gary asked to amend the motion to state that we recommend to TELWF that they move the funds from the inactive weevil fund to the general weed control fund for treatment of weeds on Lake Tippecanoe. Glenna Shelby seconded the motion.* More discussion followed. *Dave Swart called for a vote and the motion was passed.* Following additional discussion, *Jim Newcombe moved that, provided TELWF agrees to move the funds from the weevil fund to the weed control fund as requested, we consider these funds as current year contributions to the weed control fund for the purpose of funding this years weed treatments. Bob Schwartz seconded the motion. A vote was called and the motion was passed.*

Adjournment

Joe Westendorf motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Calhoun and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Attendance From Sign-In Sheet:

Board Members:			
Connie Anthony	Monty Ganshorn	Bob Schwartz	Jeff Thornburgh
Gary Calhoun	Jim Hayes	Linda Schwartz	Dave Tyler
Meredith Contos	Holly LaSalle	Glenna Shelby	Joe Westendorf
Moe Dalverny	Steve Matthias	Robert Smith	
Dan Drook	Jim Newcombe	Sara Smith	
Bev Ganshorn	Kevin Robie	David Swart	
Guests:			