

ELDA General Membership Meeting – July 8th, 2023, 10am

Officers:

George Firmstone, President
Dave Stanton, Vice President
Pat Walker, Treasurer
Millie McCarthy, Corresponding Secretary
Kathy Emanuelson, Recording Secretary
*board members absent

Board Members:

Joe Palonis ('23)	Dennis Gregory ('25)
Ken Swan ('23)	Chris Mann ('25)
*Jack Cleary ('24)	Paul Szwayka ('25)
Mike Connelly ('24)	Bob Keen, Past President
Mike Matzko ('24)	

Call to Order & Introductions

President George Firmstone called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 10:02am. He asked everyone present to sign-in and introduce themselves. (Attendance sign-in attached)

Recording Secretary's Report – Kathy Emanuelson presented two sets of minutes. The minutes of the August 13th, 2022, General Membership Meeting were shared electronically with ELDA general membership for their review prior to the meeting. A motion to approve them was made by John Parker, seconded by Cynthia Matzko, with no corrections noted, and passed with no one opposed. The minutes of the April 23rd, 2023, board meeting were shared electronically with ELDA board members for their review prior to the meetings. A motion to approve them was requested from board members only, was made by Dave Stanton, seconded by Michael Matzko, with no corrections noted, and passed with no one opposed.

Corresponding Secretary's Report – Millie McCarthy reported ELDA has 146 paying members with 4 members' dues outstanding but "in the mail". She reported that the numbered manual stickers were helpful last year finding the owners of kayaks or rowboats that had floated away from home. She issued 500 manual stickers.

Treasurer's Report – Pat Walker shared both the Profit & Loss summary for 8/1/22 through 7/8/23 and the Balance Sheet dated 7/8/2023 (both attached). On the P&L, Pat notes that the repair & maintenance line item is higher than usual and includes two projects. First, was the removal of a large tree on ELDA property near the dam, and with the help of a recommendation from Bob Keen, cost only \$2,000 to remove. On discussion, Pat noted that the board deemed the tree a danger, but one member suggested the board had "opened a can of worms". The second project was the improvement of the bridge over the dam. Dave Phillips volunteered his labor so deck improvement cost materials only, and the new fence was installed by American Fence Company.

Township Meeting Report – Ken Swan suggests that members follow Clinton Township meetings in the Forest City Paper. Township meetings and voting will continue to be held at the schoolhouse. One issue of possible concern to ELDA members is an ordinance pertaining to short-term rentals. Ken is pursuing a copy of the actual wording of the ordinance, which reportedly will provide for the health and safety of residents and is a result of problems in other local lake areas.

Patrol Report – George reports for Joe Farrell who observes that wave runners are a source of concern. Members are instructed to make sure riders have Boating Safety Certification and don't get too close to shorelines. For example: jet skis run between a slow cruising pontoon boat and the shoreline, putting any swimmers at risk. Tight circles are also a problem. Any significant safety issue will result in the PA Boat Commission coming to the lake, which ELDA really doesn't want. One member reminds jet ski operators that steering stops when the engine is cut.

Boating and Safety – Mike Matzko opened his comments agreeing with the Patrol Report. He reminded members that jet skis towing tubes must be three seaters, as there must be room on any

towing boat for the rider in addition to the spotter. Mike also reminded paddleboard riders that they must have a whistle and PFD on board when paddling.

Mike pointed out the table full of literature for members. The 2023 Boating and Fishing Handbooks are combined into one booklet. Also, there is a beautiful fish identification poster available for everyone, as well as pamphlets for safe paddling and snake identification.

Fish Committee – Jack Mulka shared the story of the bear that swam across the lake, and the eagle that was interested in, but missed, the fish. He did report that walleye were stocked last fall, and next spring the committee will stock the lake with rainbow and brown trout. Thank you to the Swans for the use of their ramp. Its distance from the lake's outlet makes it a preferable location for fish installation. Of the \$5,000 budgeted for fish, \$1000 is left unspent. The committee discussed additional spending options. The only two fish that don't reproduce are trout and walleye. Perhaps 5 years ago we did stock some feeder fish, but no additional spending was decided upon. Ken Swan shared that a dead eagle was found near his dock. The PA Game Commission did come to inspect it, but the bird was significantly decayed and no foul play was suspected. Also reported was a dead snapping turtle on the Buckland shore; it was about 30 lbs. Jack had some patches from the Fish Commission that he shared with the Fishing Contest committee.

Water Quality Report – Dave Stanton reported that 2022 had overall good reports. The eColi readings were less than 1, for frame of reference 235 is the level that will close the lake to swimming. Phosphorus levels were also good. Dave observed that this summer is wetter and asked all residents to be careful to prevent nutrients from getting into the lake. Please maintain your septic systems and prevent nutrient flow.

There was a query about some significant algae growth and a request that a sample be shared with our water analysis people. George noted that it was algae, most likely growing faster as the lake didn't freeze this year. George appreciated the observation and asked for prompt reports of any unusual growth.

Dave also stressed the importance of thoroughly washing boats and trailers, and or any paddle craft that have been on another body of water before returning them to our lake.

Fracking Committee Report – Dave Stanton has no report, as fracking is on hold.

Dam report – Dave reported for Fred Stanton the board was put in on March 26th. The dam passed inspection and there are no issues.

Committee Appointments

- o **Financial Records Review Committee** – Pat Walker asked George to appoint the same committee as last year, Vince Gatti and Randy Berini, who will review the financial records and present the annual review at the August meeting.

- o **Nominating Committee** – John Parker has agreed to continue as chair of the committee and asked George to appoint Beth Walko and Holly Stanton to the nominating committee. John thanked Jim Firmstone and Pat Dills for their years of service on the nominating committee. John reviewed that there are three board positions up this year. Bob Howell has resigned his seat. Both incumbents Joe Palonis and Ken Swan have agreed to run for another term. The Nominating Committee also nominated John Walko and Mark Murray. George asked for nominations from the members: Paul Szwayka nominated Mike Farrell. A motion to close nominations was made by Jerry Theobald, seconded by Pat Walker and passed with no opposed. John Parker summarized voting activities for the August general membership meeting: The ballot will have 5 nominees, and each ELDA household is entitled to complete one ballot at the meeting. Results will be tallied and announced at the end of the meeting.

Addendum for members information: After the meeting Mike Farrell called President George Firmstone and declined his nomination. His name will be removed from the ballot.

Summer Activities for 2023:

- General Membership Meeting – Saturday August 12th, 10AM.
- George Stanton Annual Golf Tournament – Saturday July 15th, Memorial Links, tee off 8:30am. Stanton family and Len Addison. Sign-ups link on ELDA website and facebook page, and available today at the meeting. Lenny has many prizes and there are lots of hats!
- Annual Field Day – Saturday, July 29th, 1PM, Sarah Sierra (sarahmsierra@gmail.com), Theresa Dethlefsen.
- Covered Dish – Saturday July 29th, 6PM, Laura Beard and Joanne Connelly.
- Fishing Tournament – Sunday August 6th. Measurements at Howell cottage at 11AM, Rob Howell, & Kristin Conover. Please sign up at covered dish. OR stop by the Howell cottage anytime to sign up. It is helpful to include first & last name, as well as age, of the participant when signing up. Fee for tournament: \$1 for kids, \$2 for adults.

Please remember Elk Lake is "No Wake" until 11am on Fishing Tourney Sunday.

George thanked everyone who contributes to the success of the activities!

Old Business

- **Invasive weed issue** – This was covered earlier in the meeting. There is a need to stay focused on it, and clean any watercraft that's been on another lake or river. Use hot water and let it dry for a few days. This includes boat, trailer, motor, prop, kayak and any paddle craft. Fire Company Blowing out their tanks – related to keeping invasive growth out of the lake, Paul Szwajka noted that a few fire companies come up and blow out their tanks. He asked ELDA to follow up on this and ban this activity.

- **Bridge & fence repair at dam** – Pat covered in his treasurer's report. A big thank you to Dave Phillips for his work and coordinating the job.

- **Tree removal** – covered in treasurer's report.

- **Beaver trapping** – The beaver dens have been removed. The beaver were trapped mid-winter. Beside being destructive to our trees, they completely blocked water flow at our dam. Chris Stone noted that one was 58lbs, another 55lbs, and very aggressive.

A member asked if there was a way to control cats and woodchucks. People need to stop feeding cats.

New Business

- **Summer newsletter** – Please send stories and pictures of lake events to Laure Carlo at laurecarlo@yahoo.com.

- **AED funding** – George shared that a donation drive was going on to fund an AED on the Sensentine shore, and over the last month there have been many discussions about the idea. George introduced Caleb Datto, who addressed the members about the benefits of AEDs. Caleb shared that his motivation was personal, as he has a health history for sudden cardiac arrest. Caleb shared several pages of information (attached) that described the need for, the benefit of, and the costs associated with AED units. He also included information on maintenance costs as well as cost and options for storage boxes for the unit. He noted that EMS response time in Wayne County is 15 minutes, which is why he's fundraising to get an AED located at the lake. So far there is \$1,430 raised from donations. Caleb stressed that he would run training sessions if an AED unit were installed.

There was lively discussion on the benefit and issues of installing an AED at Elk Lake including:

- ✓ More than one location was needed, and eventually 7 locations identified.
- ✓ Life expectancy of the units
- ✓ Initial and ongoing training
- ✓ Much conversation on how much ELDA should contribute, from paying \$500, or in full for one or many.
- ✓ Need for a plan for routinely verifying unit is charged and operational.
- ✓ A possible mandatory or optional AED assessment of \$10 to pay for units or maintenance.
- ✓ What are the liability issues for ELDA associated with the unit.

Finally, it was suggested that an AED Committee be established with members from the 7 identified location areas to work through questions and if possible, bring real cost estimates and a plan for consideration to the August meeting.

The committee established is:

Sue Walker for Elk Lake Road

Jon Walko for Lizzies Lane

Ken Swan for Kennedy Lane

Peggy Macdonald and John Warden for Sensentine Shore.

Caleb Datto, Chairman

Cynthia Matzko for Buckland Shore,

Len Addison for Giles Road

Rick Emanuelson for Club House Road

George asked for any new business from the floor: there was none.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Theobald, seconded by Dave Stanton, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Emanuelson

Recording Secretary

7/18/2023