

DRAFT Minutes
Dunkirk Dam Lake District (DDLD)
July 19, 2023 quarterly meeting
 Location: Dunkirk Town Hall

In Attendance:

DDLD Commissioners	Attendees		Guests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Davis*, Chair • Lauri Hodge*, Treasurer • Becky Dakin*, Secretary • Dan Jenks, Dunkirk Appointee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted Christman* • David Gove* • Rich Morris* • Tom Nordin* • Jason Mackey* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug MacKenzie* • Marie Matejka* • Jack Lyon * • Liz Vanderwerff* • Nicholas Schmuhl* • Matt Koshollek (DNR Conservation Warden) • Tom Reiss (Dunkirk Dam Lessee) 	

* DDLD property owner/resident

Topic	Discussion	Action
DDLD Quarterly Meeting DRAFT Minutes – 07.19.23		
Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Davis called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. 	None
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becky reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. The minutes were approved as summarized. 	Becky will record the minutes as approved and re-post to the website.
Dunkirk Township Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Jenks reported that the Dunkirk Parks Commission has been the topic of late. They amended the ordinance that now allows for nine members. There is still one vacancy. They are charged with looking at the soccer club usage in the parks as well as looking at all of the Dunkirk parks and existing equipment. • The state budget passed and with the increase in sales tax, Dunkirk will see an increase in revenue. This will greatly help the cost of the road repairs which are \$400k this year. Taylor Ln and Hanover Rd are completed, as is Hwy N. 	None
Dane County Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Engelberger was unable to attend – no report for this meeting 	None
Update: Stoughton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura provided several photo slides showing the trail and bridge that is now open. The trail begins from Fourth St by the old Power Plant and proceeds to the new bridge that crosses 	None

<p>River Park</p>	<p>the river into Mandt Park. The city has planted many native shore plants. This improvement has drawn attention to the old worn out condition of this entire area. The development project for the water park is currently waiting for DNR to approve passage under the Fourth St Bridge. Interest rates have also stalled things but Brink Construction is still committed to constructing the water park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member asked if there were any plans for the project to look at downstream traffic. Laura stated there would be an impact and this is yet to be determined. 	
<p>Treasurer’s Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lauri Hodge provided the Treasurer’s Report explaining the expenses and income over the past 3 months. Activity has been minimal. We have one more payment for the dam loan payment due in March 2024. DDL D tax burden will lower after that. We also have additional tax revenue that will be coming from Dunkirk in August. • The Treasurer’s Report was approved. 	<p>None</p>
<p>Update: Lyons Park expansion (aka Adler/Hansen property)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura stated that the grant request submitted to the Stoughton Trailer foundation was denied. Our next opportunity is in Sept requesting funds from the Stoughton Community Foundation – a maximum of \$5,000. We can also apply for up to \$10,000 from the DNR Surface Water Planning grant. 	<p>Laura will continue to pursue funding opportunities for the Lyons Park expansion</p>
<p>Safety Committee: Important Safety Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem: Laura introduced this part of the meeting stating that there have been continued problems with trespassing and vandalism at the dam. She introduced Tom Reiss who runs the Dunkirk Dam and he shared an incident that occurred in May. • Incident: Tom Reiss stated that he is hesitant to talk about his but would provide a little information. Ron Vike, who usually adjusts the water levels at the dam is currently out with medical issues. Tom has been adjusting the pond levels himself. On Sunday, 5 wks ago, he was finishing up on the downstream side of the powerplant when he saw two men in this area. He politely asked, “Gentlemen, you’ll need to leave. You’re not to be in here.” The men were carrying black bags – no fishing equipment. They dropped their bags and came at me and shoved me over. I fell hitting my head on a rock. After I finished up, I drove myself to the Stoughton Hospital. • This took place on the downstream side where the two walls come out – inside the fenced area. The two men left by going back toward the bridge. • Laura stated that this is evidence that there is more going on than fishing on the dam and we want to reinforce the area to prevent access. • Safety Committee Research: Laura introduced Ted Christman, a member of the Safety Committee. He showed quite a few slides that Laura had taken the previous Monday 	<p>Safety Committee will pursue: 1. Signage 2. Tom wants to meet with Lemke Fence 3. Obtain additional fence repair bids 4. Consider cameras 5. Work w Sherriff to confirm citation process</p>

- providing an understanding of the millpond and river, the dam, dikes on both sides of the dam, the bridge between the millpond and catchment area, sluiceway, and powerhouse.
- **Trespassing:** Ted explained that there is no access/no trespassing on the embankment, dike, and bridge. Portage is allowed IN the river. The only portage route for kayakers is from the west side of the millpond, up and over the grassy portion of the dike, down the steep side, and continuing in the downstream west side of the river. Several members shared that they have used this portage but it is very difficult and requires some skill.
 - **Videos of Folks accessing the west side of the river:** Laura shared several videos that she took on this past Monday afternoon. We saw one angler walking up the dike, over the rocks, onto the grass, and stopping to stand on the cement abutment at the turbulent water coming out of the dam. Another video showed a family of four with a toddler jump over the sluiceway onto the dike and down into the water; at one point, dropping the toddler. There were a total of eight people on the dike and in the west side of the river on this Monday afternoon. Laura also talked to a young man (16yrs or so) and asked how you get to that side of the river. He stated you have to go down and around the powerhouse and walk up the river because getting on the dam is not allowed.
 - Tom interjected that the 5-year inspection by FERC and DNR took place yesterday and went well/passed.
 - **Patrolling/Citations:** Ted discussed Increased Patrolling deferring to Matt Koshollek our Conservation Warden. Matt can stop and question trespassers but citations of any kind would be issued by Dane County Sheriffs. Matt said he has been in discussion with the Sheriffs and they are considering a 2-3 week focused time to confront trespassers and/or an undercover effort to observe what takes place and confront trespassers.
 - It was once again clarified that people have the right to be in the river but not on the dyke, dam, or powerhouse.
 - **Fencing/Gate Repair:** Ted showed slides of the damaged fencing. He recently met with Lemke Fence who originally installed the fence many years ago. They recommended repair to the posts and “wings” on both sides of the double gate. They recommended raising the height of the two wings to discourage up-and-over. They will re-hang the double gates that do not need to be replaced. Cost of this 3-4 day repair is \$4000+.
 - A member, (Jason Mackey) recommended using a different material rather than barbed wire on the top of the fencing. His company has had success with this.
 - **Cameras:** Cameras were discussed. Cameras are motion-censored so only activity needs to be reviewed. It is, however, reviewed after the fact. The DNR can place cameras during the

- no-fishing time of spawning March through May. Laura said the Safety Committee can consider cameras in their future examination. The group discussed whether Jason would like to join the Safety Committee. This will be discussed with him at a later time.
- **Access Dangers:** Tom Reiss mentioned that the powerplant is not running right now because of the inconsistent water levels in the river. When the powerplant is running, the water coming out has tremendous flow and is dangerous. Ted showed a slide of the current access points south of the powerplant that are problematic.
 - **Remove Barriers?** A member asked if we can remove the barriers and allow access onto the dam/dike. Response stated that the west side of the dam/powerplant is VERY STEEP and includes the sluiceway (casually referred to as the water slide). This area is covered with grass and boulders. Tom is required by FERC to maintain this area and not allow growth of trees/debris – nothing that would impede the flow of water.
 - A member mentioned that we may need signage on the west side of the dam as it is not evident that people are not allowed on the steep grassy/rock portion of the dam/dike.
 - **Next Steps:** At a minimum we need to repair the gate/fencing and replace the signs that have all been removed. Signage needs to be placed both upstream and downstream.
 - A member mentioned that it may be helpful to have our insurance come out and take a look and give their input.
 - **Insurance:** Tom Reiss stated that yesterday when he was at the dam for the inspection, his insurance carrier was there also. They stated that if the gates were removed and access opened up, they would cancel his insurance as there are too many dangerous areas.
 - **Signage:** The wording of the signs was discussed. Tom Reiss will be included in this future discussion. Tom suggested that the signs need to state, “No Trespassing Beyond This Point. Violators will be Prosecuted.”
 - **Next Steps:** All of this information will go back to the Safety Committee. They will pursue signage and fencing. The DDLD does not have the money to repair the fence. Tom Reiss mentioned that he would like to meet with Lemke Fence to provide his input, discuss materials and he might be willing to pay for the repairs. Tom would also like to talk with Lemke Fence about the area by the outlet that needs fenced.
 - It was once again stated that your “feet have to stay wet” or you are trespassing.
 - A member asked Dan Jenks if there is signage everywhere at the Stoughton Dam. Dan said there is not. (There is no electric-generating powerhouse at the Stoughton Dam.)
 - A member stated that possibly we should make the grassy area on the dike less desirable. OR, we should concentrate on providing areas to access the river. That is in the works with

	the expansion of Lyons Park.	
Special Presentation: "Protecting Your Waterfront"	Postponed until our next meeting in October.	Becky, re-post this on the web.
Other conversations at the end of the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted talked with Jason and he agreed to join the Safety Committee. 	Becky – post this on the website and share Jason’s contact info with the committee.
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Quarterly DDLD July 2023 Meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm 	

