

## Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park

Minutes, 25 June 2020

The zoom meeting was called to order at 4:33 by Lynn, President. Host of the zoom conference was John Swanson.

Present: John Swanson, Carl Scholz, Rich Dirks, Jim Perry, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Joe Jarosh, Don Gustafson, Adele Douglass, Lynn Zawojski, Sara Stepanik, Erin Brown Stender.

The agenda was approved (Sue/John).

Minutes from February 13, 2020 were approved (John/Carl). There were no meetings during March through May due to the governor's Safer at Home restrictions.

The treasurer's reports for February, March, April, and May 2020 were approved (Susan/John). Incomes for the four months were: February \$493.50, March \$1,497.39, April \$10.00, May \$1025.00. Expenses for the same period were: February \$6104.90, March \$260.83, April \$33.53, May \$1039. The checking account balance is \$44,248.44; The Savings account balance is \$15,129.92, for various restricted projects.

Park Report: Sarah reported that Brynna is the new park and rec specialist. Steve Umentum is working part time as the naturalist (due to covid restrictions, he is doing mostly individualized activities and organizing stuff). Two folks are living in the staff houses; new pressure tanks were installed in these houses. The mule vehicle is being serviced at present. The first and third beach access points have been closed due to high water. The temporary staircase has been removed. A potential archaeological site has been found between the second and third access sites; an archaeologist is coming to have a look. There is a proposal to close the second access site due to potential landslides and concern for safety. Also closed are the nature center, observation deck, Old Baldy, and the shelter. Stickers must be purchased on line. Volunteers are welcomed back under certain conditions, especially with respect to social distancing. An effort is needed to deal with

honeysuckle, poison ivy, and other invasive species. This is a volunteer opportunity. The brachiopod trail is nearly done. Park management is concerned about lack of social distancing on the beach. The kayak concession is expected to reopen as soon as the business plan is approved, Sarah expects no problem with this.

Old business:

Brachiopod Trail. It should be finished within a month. We can move ahead with extra amenities such as gravel as soon as the construction is complete. Max Martin is building the kiosk at his home.

Fire pit. The original model is no longer available. Due to the need for social distancing, it was decided to put this issue aside until next year.

New Business

Income loss: Susan reports that income is limited to the pop machine. No clothing or books can be sold as long as the nature center remains closed. She has prepared a fiscal year 20-21 budget for July to September at which time we can see how the rest of the year unfolds. The partial budget was approved (Susan/Rich).

Snow blower: John has prepared an application to the Raibrook Foundation for partial funding of a new snow blower.

More brachiopod discussion: Can the trail be made handicapped accessible? The access might have to be off the county road. Erin will explore this.

Election of three new board members. Susan reminded us that at present there are 8 members; bi-laws require 10-13. Three new members were elected; Joe Jarosh, Dick Weidman, and Liz Story. (Rich/John). We welcome them warmly.

Death of Rick Ostrowski (former manager). Several donations have been received for a memorial bench. Susan will send a summer newsletter (via email) to the membership which will inform members of his passing as well as other park and Friends news.

Pollinator garden: Don thanked Sarah for her cooperation to enhance the garden. The garden has been expanded with about 75 new plants. About 50% of previous plantings have survived with the likelihood that low lighting is the cause. The low light into the garden is a concern and he asked about the possibility of careful cutting or pruning of nearby overhanging branches. He will meet with Sarah to explore the possibility of doing this. He suggests the addition of a sign explaining the value of pollinators as well as some additional signage to identify the various plants.

Next meeting July 16 with John hosting again via zoom.

Two items were identified for the agenda in July. First planning needs to happen for the annual meeting, normally held during September. Second there will be a final year-end financial report for the fiscal year 19-20.

Adjourn at 5:25pm