

# **Moose Lake Advancement Association Board Meeting Minutes**

## **Monday, October 14, 2024 – zoom meeting**

Present: Rory Leyden, Hilarie Puestow, Yvonne Lindl , Tom Kielma, Sue Laabs, Tammy Gallagher, and Gery Sawall. Absent: Bob Mikulec and Lynn Leidel

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.
2. Rory reiterated that the Town of Merton has strongly encouraged us to form a lake district and has implied that it may be unwilling to help with a high water solution until that happens. A lake district has the advantage of being able to apply for grants to help cover the cost of a project. Atty. Giles had estimated the cost of creating a lake district may be approximately \$25,000. Costs to actually complete the project range from \$250,000 - \$500,000. To form a lake district, a petition must be signed by 51% of the land owners or 51% of the total shoreline owned. If the petitioners meet one, but not both of these thresholds, the Town could deny the formation.
3. Currently, the Association has 55 members. Anyone can donate money to help pay for the creation of a lake district. In the high water survey taken in 2020, 80% of the respondents wanted a solution and 73% were willing to pay something toward that solution. If we were a lake district we would probably need to tax each parcel \$65-\$75 to cover the ongoing costs of a lake district and add a special assessment of \$2,500-\$5,000 to cover the cost of the solution.
4. A motion was made, seconded and passed (6-1) to begin the process of creating a petition to form a lake district.
5. In its July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board had authorized Rory to contract with Attorney Troy Giles for up to \$1,500 to help with the formation of a lake district. The Board moved, seconded and unanimously passed a motion to authorize Rory to contract with Atty. Giles for an additional \$3,500 which the Association members had approved in the June 12, 2024 spring meeting.
6. All agreed that the Board would need to prepare information regarding lake districts that could be distributed to all lake property owners. Sue, Hilarie, Tammy, and Yvonne agreed to serve on a committee to prepare frequently asked questions and answers that would help owners in their decision to sign or not sign a petition. One question that was discussed was the basis for taxation by the district, who would decide the appropriate basis and when that determination would be made. It is likely that we would need Atty. Giles to help with some of the answers. This committee will meet next week to begin compiling the information.
7. A committee comprised of Rory, Bob, Tom, Gery, and Greg O'Hearn was also formed to interview the two engineering firms that have submitted proposals.
8. A meeting of all lake owners will be held on Tuesday, November 19, to present this information and to possibly begin circulating the petition. Atty. Giles and a representative from the engineering firm should also be present at that meeting. (Note: it was subsequently decided to cancel the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.)
9. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Submitted by: Yvonne Lindl, Secretary