**Lake Samish Association Board Meeting**

**January 13, 2021**

**Attendance**

Derek Buse, Eric McHenry, Art & Val Baddorf, Sharon Cody, Don, Kate Fadden, Micah Ping, Josh Bremmerer, Janet Monks, Laurie Henley, Bruce Brown.

Community members: Joan Ellsworth, Mike Hess

Meeting was called to order on Zoom at 6:35pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Art moved, Sharon seconded motion to approve November minutes; all voted in favor except Josh and Micah abstained.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Sharon sent the treasurer’s report to Board members ahead of the meeting.

Ball was dropped on functionality of renewing membership via credit card on LSA website. This option has not been working and eight payments were returned, due to Wix requiring some documents from LSA. Micah said Maia sent the needed paperwork to Wix a few weeks ago so repair is in progress. In the meantime the credit card payment option has been removed from the website. PayPal payment option still works OK. The eight people who’d tried to renew their membership by credit card were not notified by LSA. Sharon will provide a list of the people we need to contact and Micah will contact them.

Village Books sold ten of our history books over the holidays.

At next Board meeting we need to approve next year’s budget. Sharon will send it out in advance.

**Membership**

Only six members are still on 10-year memberships, and these expire by 2023. No updates are sent to 10-year members but they get notified when membership is due in next cycle. Suggested special notification for 10-year members when their membership expires. Currently, members must email LSA and ask to find out if they’re paid up.

**Announcements/Next meeting date**

Next Board meeting: Wed. Mar 24 @ 6:30 (Zoom)

Annual meeting: Thurs Apr 22 @ 6:30 (Zoom)

These dates need to be posted on web site and Facebook. Meeting dates hadn’t been updated online since September. Josh will update.

**Communications**

Kate noted that she paid for a business directory listing but it hasn’t showed up on the web site. Discussed whether there is a process in place for new businesses advertising with LSA. This would be under the communications umbrella but no decision was made. The editor of the Lake Views publication had informally offered us her advertisers since she was going out of business, but she never followed up. The publication may have a new editor now so it may be a moot point. No further action needed on taking over Lake Views’ advertisers.

**LSA swag**

LSA merchandise option is not yet functional on web site. Josh says he only needs to add the credit card info and will get it going. We pay with our credit card when orders are made, although we are reimbursed. Sharon will send Josh the info he needs.

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

Some Board members have signed the form. Question of whether to add a consequence if Board members do not sign it. Decided this was not needed since signing it will be a prerequisite to joining the Board.

There is currently one conflict which can be discussed at the next meeting.

Remaining board members need to sign the form and return to Janet. Janet will upload signed forms to Google Drive.

Sharon motioned to adopt, Josh seconded, all approved adding conflict of interest policy verbiage to bylaws. Sharon will update bylaws.

**Events**

**Litter pickup**: In pandemic workaround, we will continue to pick up litter individually (no group pickup). Participants have to dump their own bags of trash; the County will not due to Covid. Date was set for April 24 and Josh will post the event on Facebook/web site. We can remind people at the membership meeting, which is on April 22 (Earth Day).

**Issues**

**Water quality**: Mike Hess sent the LSA Board a letter about the lake pollution from loose pieces of styrofoam from old docks. This is a water quality problem that impacts wildlife and contributes to higher ozone levels as well as unsightly litter on beaches. Mike’s suggestions are as follows:

1. Monitor the problem through LSA
2. Educate/ publicize/ ask homeowners to remove unusable docks
3. Organize litter pick-up from lake (polystyrene round-up)
4. Look into grants, partnerships, etc. with county/ state agencies
5. Look into having homeowners replacing Styrofoam blocks under usable docks with an environmentally friendly material.

Eric offered to help Mike remove some large foam blocks that have been sitting on the west side of the lake. Janet’s husband could volunteer with his excavator if needed. There was discussion about disposal; homeowners would have to bear the cost or possibly Public Works could pay the dump fees since they already do that for our litter pick-up. Joan suggested Public Works may help remove the blocks if there is community involvement. She will follow up with John Thompson at the County. Derek will help identify properties where there is styrofoam. Val will contact Lake Whatcom community association to see if they have any insights.

Mike will spearhead a committee on the issue, and Joan will help. Laurie will stay informed and provide updates to the Board, which can help with community education, monitoring, keeping track of regulations, and publicizing Public Works involvement if that is organized. We could use a shortened version of Mike Hess’ letter to communicate with membership if/when we get a commitment with Public Works.

Discussed possibility of having a speaker talk about styrofoam impact/ replacement at the next general meeting. We will continue the discussion at next Board meeting.

**Mail theft**: There has been a lot of mail stolen from mailboxes in the area lately. Laurie just found mail for the Fire Hall scattered on the ground.

**Voting for Board positions**: We need a spreadsheet of Board members and when their terms expire on our web site. Val will check the Board minutes for this info.

Discussed remote voting at membership meetings. Bruce looked into online voting options after the last meeting and discussed this by email with Derek and Eric, and it was decided to just stick with Zoom so we don’t have to pay for another platform.

Online voting will be allowed, but not by text or IM. Sharon sent the Board members an email about verbiage for the bylaws and asked for feedback; she will make edits and send suggested verbiage out again to Board. We will resolve by email and vote on at next meeting. Also discussed having a ballot box/ using the mailbox at the Fire Hall in addition to remote and in-person voting. No decision was made.

We can normally take nominations from the floor, but not at a Zoom meeting, so nominations must be done prior to the meeting. Voting on Zoom wouldn’t be private, which is a concern. Voting by email would allow privacy. Members will be able to vote during the meeting and one day after by email. All votes will go to one member who tallies with another person. Sharon offered to help coordinate. At April meeting to the best of our knowledge we will be voting on the President and Secretary positions; Val will verify this. This upcoming election needs to be publicized on the web site and by email, and we can ask for volunteers at the same time. Josh and Micah will write up an email to members to explain the voting procedure, and Derek will follow up with them.

**Speaker for April membership meeting**: It would be timely to have a speaker on water quality and possibly the styrofoam issue. Art will contact the Fish and Wildlife Department. Bruce will call a friend who’s researching the plastics problem in the oceans. Other options are a quick PowerPoint with credit given to the author, or a speaker from Lutherwood. Length would be 10 minutes maximum. We’ll discuss the options at next meeting.

Josh updated the website and corrected the date of the upcoming membership meeting.

Meeting ended at 8:40pm.

Submitted by Valerie Baddorf, Secretary