

**PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Mary Reed, Sec. President Roger Cody was called out of town for an emergency. .

**PRESENT:** : Dave Combs, Mary Reed, Barb Wolverton, George and Margaret Panches, Doug Calloway, Eric Beeman, Judy Blackmore, Jim Simons, Alice Hendricks, Jane and Paul Mueller, Mike Acton, Tim Erwin

**MINUTES:** Copies of the June minutes were distributed. They were corrected to include Jim Simons as present at the June meeting. Barb moved to approve, Jim seconded, minutes were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The financial report as of 7/2/08 was distributed. Dave moved to approve, Jim seconded, report approved. Barb noted that we have received payment from Onekama village and township for the website. We also received money from the Lions for the fireworks. The profit from this year's Fundraiser was the best ever.

**PORTAGE LAKE WATERSHED FOREVER:** Tim Ervin and Mike Acton updated the board on the watershed activities. They presented a certified copy of the plan to the PLA. Mike noted that the plan is a community plan and that it has an action plan. It will need to have organizations adopt the action items that fit their organization. For instance, PLA could adopt "develop and distribute information to residents and businesses on proper maintenance and operation of septic tile field sanitary systems" (task #2.A.3. pg 92). Plans must involve the communities in order to complete the tasks. Approval of plan makes us eligible to apply for grants. Tim distributed a short version of the approved plan to all board members and asked us to see which tasks "fit" the PLA. The infrastructure to implement parts of the plan includes: homeowners packet which contains a fact sheet on "permitting", signs designating this as a watershed will be placed in 7 locations, monitoring of the lake for e.coli is being done, dissolved O-2 stratification by Jim from Little River, shoreline survey that Herb Lenon is organizing. The lake will be surveyed between July 21<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>th</sup>.and invasive species will be mapped. Now turning goals and objectives into a score card. Board should identify what PLA would like to take on – example is 2A3 "distribute info on septic systems and proper maintenance". Storm water run off is big issue. Village has sewers to Little Eden. Be prepared to discuss a prioritized list at our next meeting. They have a great video on septic systems. High priority items have been identified. Need to get info to property owners on how to manage your property....vegetative buffers between lawns and lake, no phosphates, Plan to get info to homeowner by personal door to door delivery of information packets. PLA should read pages 91 to 93 of The Watershed Plan. Choose 3-5 things that make sense for the PLA to do.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1) WEBSITE:** The Onekama site now has 8 or 9 sub-calendars, Be sure to check out the newly released Watershed website. Eric and George are working on a new main menu with more color/action/fonts and will email options to the board when they have it narrowed down to 4-5. Eric clarified that Dendra's contract ran out and that is why he is now the webmaster. . Dendra did a great job.. Discussion on link to YouTube. This would be moderated by Eric. Eric also reminded us that the web site address should be on everything...ie Newsletters/President's Letter/flyers, etc.

**2) SIGN:** Doug reported that he has not made any progress on the location on the South side of town. The location that we have approvals for is a swamp and would require a lot of work/expense. He is working with Gene Trentham to place the sign on the North end of town about where the old sign was. He needs to get State approvals and an easement from the

Township. The sign is already made and he could use some volunteer help when the project begins. Jim Simons noted that the Marina property may still be an option. Also, there is a chance that the Fair Board might now be willing reconsider that location. Doug will follow up. He also discussed maintenance of the sign and the plantings around it. Plantings need to be "maintenance free". Options of organizations to help were discussed: Portage Lake Garden Club, Spirit of the Woods Garden Club, Township Rec & Parks committee. PLA has the ownership but this is a community project. Nancy Cody has volunteered to pick out the plantings.

- 3) **NEWSLETTER & CONCERTS:** Margaret thanked everyone for their help with the Big Band Concert on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, the weather was bad, but the concert was still held in the park with all the decorations and extra activities. Barb asked if the PLA wanted to purchase the 9 buntings that we borrowed for \$30 each. These could be put up for each concert. Discussion followed on who would be responsible for putting up and taking down. Board decided not to purchase the banners at this time.
- 4) **POSTCARDS:** Barb distributed 4 postcards of Onekama that she had printed. It was decided to sell these to the stores for 0.20 and have the stores decide what they want to sell them for. Dave moved and Judy seconded that we sell these to the stores at 0.20 and let them decide on the price to sell them.
- 5) **FIREWORKS:** Paul reported that the Fireworks will be held on Friday night August 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be set off in the same place as always. Paul requested volunteers to set up on Friday at 3:30.....
- 6) **FUNDRAISER:** This was our most successful event. Thank you from Roger to the people who worked so very hard on this event. There was discussion about what we might do better for next year.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) **WINDOW TREATMENT AT THE FARR CENTER:** Mary requested \$1,500 from the PLA for help in providing window coverings. The Portage Lake Garden Club has donated \$500 towards this project. Discussion followed. Alice Hendricks reported that the village does not have the money. This room is used by many in the community and badly needs something on the windows. Mary moved and Paul seconded that the PLA donate this money. Motion passed
- 2) **BANNERS:** Auctioning the old banners at the fundraiser was a great idea. Money from the sale was put into the "banners" account. This could be an annual event to raise money for new banners.
- 3) **VILLAGE ELECTION:** Howard and Pat Hughes presented information on the upcoming local elections. What great citizens they are! They reminded us that petitions are available at the township office for village and township offices. Petitions are due by August 12<sup>th</sup>. 7 positions are up for election in the village. The elections will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The township will run the election. Howard encouraged people to run for office and be involved.

#### **Reminders:**

**Concerts in the Park on Monday nights**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.**

Submitted by:

Mary Reed, Secretary