

Van Vliet Lake Association

Annual Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2004

1. President Tom Olson called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Thirty-two people were in attendance.

2. Adoption of Agenda: Matt Pachi moved and Ed Brodsky seconded that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Report of the President: Tom Olson read a copy of the report he had prepared which detailed the efforts of the Association during the past year. (A copy is available on the Association Website.) He also read a letter from Steve McComas, Consultant for the Lake Management Planning Grant, complimenting Van Vliet Lake Association on its professionalism and its efforts in this endeavor. (A copy of this is also available on the website.)

4. Treasurer's Report: Nancy Frank reported that the balance in the Association Account as of August 14, 2004, was \$3182.20. This represented 42 households.

The balance in the Lake Management Planning Grant was \$4,200.00

A motion was made by Matt Pachi to accept the report. George Kupfer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Van Vliet Hemlocks: Tom Olson added to the information given in his President's Report on the status of the Lake Association's efforts to preserve the land referred to as the "Van Vliet Hemlocks." This is land bordering both Van Vliet and Averill Lakes and is controlled by the State Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. Tom has been in regular contact with both that group and the Department of Natural Resources to encourage the permanent preservation of those lands and to voice the association's support for doing so. A committee has been appointed to work on this project and is co-chaired by Jill Wilm and Steve Frank. George Kupfer is also on the committee.

A motion was made by George Kupfer and seconded by Paul Specht that the Van Vliet Lake Association support efforts to permanently preserve the land referred to as the Van Vliet Hemlocks. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Potential Rezoning: Jill Wilm read a report prepared by Jeff Burke concerning potential rezoning of property surrounding Van Vliet Lake. (A copy of this report is available on the website.) Wildcat Lake and Oxbow Lake have already done the rezoning. Several questions were mentioned, e.g., whether it could be rezoned again, what "skip zoning" all entailed, and what the feelings were of the people on the above mentioned lakes where rezoning has occurred. It was suggested that there was a need for more information and/or education before proceeding with anything.

A motion was made by Sharon Specht and seconded by Matt Pachi that the Association continue to look into the issue. It was suggested that a committee work with the Board. The motion carried unanimously. Volunteers willing to work on such a committee with the Board were Matt Pachi, Paul and Sharon Specht, Barb Novak, Kathy Sprester, Doug Schwanz, and Barbara Olson.

7. New Business:

a. Contribution to PA System in Presque Isle: A communication had been received from Kim Bowler requesting that the Lake Association contribute \$400 for the new PA system in Presque Isle. Tom said that the Board had previously stated that it didn't feel contributing to area organizations was appropriate and in line with the Association Mission Statement.

Steve Smithson moved and Matt Pachi seconded to disapprove the request for funds. The motion carried unanimously. A hat was passed for voluntary contributions to the PA system. Tom will write to Kim Bowler telling her of the denial of the request and the reasons for doing so, and he will send the voluntary contributions to the Chamber of Commerce.

Jill Wilm moved and Paul Specht seconded that the Board form a policy for handling requests for contributions for purposes appearing beyond the scope of the Association's Mission Statement. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Absentee Ballots: George Kupfer reported for Don Trimble that Don would like to see the Association look into the Bylaws for the possibility of accepting absentee ballots.

Jill Wilm moved and Steve Smithson seconded that the Board study the issue and report to the membership on the possibility of amending the Bylaws. The motion was amended by Barb Novak and seconded by Steve Smithson to include members of the Association as well as Board members in this study group. The motion carried unanimously and was referred to the Board.

c. Date of Annual Meeting: Tom reminded people that the date of the Annual Meeting was set later this year instead of on the customary weekend nearest the 4th of July for two reasons: First, to allow for more time for data gathering between the June 5th general informational meeting on the planning grant and the Annual Meeting, and Second, because several people had stated in the past that the weekend nearest the 4th of July was sometimes difficult to attend. (Bylaws state that the Annual Meeting be held within 75 days of the 4th of July.)

It was agreed that it be left up to the Board when to set the date for the Annual Meeting depending on the issues. It was also agreed that the Annual Meeting be held at the Presque Isle Community Center as a first choice, and at the Discovery Center as a second choice.

8. Update on the Lake Management Plan: Steve Smithson, chair of the committee, gave a comprehensive report on the progress thus far on the Lake Association Planning Grant. He described the project in general, explained the activities which had been undertaken, showed pictures of the workdays, displayed and discussed the results of the survey sent to all members, and told of the plans for the immediate future. He said that when the final report is received from the consultant, the Association can then begin to determine its future direction.

George Kupfer reported that the committee had also applied for a grant to purchase a dissolved oxygen meter.

Members of the Association expressed their appreciation to Steve and the committee for their hard work and accomplishments on this project.

Pat Goggins, representative from the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation Department, was present and commended Van Vliet Lake Association for its work on the Planning Grant. He also described activities sponsored by the DNR, distributed a packet of information, and told of grant availability.

9. Board Elections: Up for election this year were the terms of President, Vice President, and two At-Large Board Members.

Paul Specht moved and Matt Pachi seconded that a unanimous ballot be cast for the President and the At-Large Members, being that those positions were uncontested. The motion carried.

In the election for Vice President, Jill Wilm defeated Barb Novak by a vote of 25 to 6.

Matt Pachi made closing comments strongly supporting the leadership of the Association and urging that we continue to conduct our business in the most efficient and expeditious manner.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Sprester,

Association Secretary

Van Vliet Lake Association

President's Report

August 14, 2004

Since our last annual meeting, we have had an extraordinarily productive year. This is the most productive year that the Association has ever had. It is a direct result of the new energy and cooperation which has occurred with our new Board. There is a singleness of purpose, and, for the first time, no divisiveness in our meetings. We have been able to address issues, formulate plans and move forward. You have the best Board that you have had during my service to the Association.

In the past year, we have accomplished the following:

1. Applied for and received a Lake Management Planning Grant from the DNR in the amount of \$9,750. This grant is to be accompanied by roughly \$3,300 in volunteer time.
2. We have hired a consultant, Steve McComas of Blue Water Science, to help us gather information and write the management plan.
3. Our committee has successfully organized workdays in June, July and August and many members have participated, learned more about the lake, and learned more about each other. You will hear more about this from Steve Smithson in a little while. We have had great volunteer support – but could always use more.
4. We have applied for a second small grant (\$1,000) to get a dissolved oxygen meter to aid us in our planning – Steve will also discuss this.
5. We have been alerted to a potential threat to the “Van Vliet Hemlocks” or “Trust Lands” as some call the property on the north end of Van Vliet and southern 2/3 of Averill. This threat is due to concerns about need to raise revenue off state lands owned by the BCPL – whose primary job is to generate revenue from their property. This treasure is “State Natural Area” quality. We have formed a committee to work on a strategy to preserve this property. We have been in contact with both the BCPL and the DNR – at the highest levels – to move this forward. This is still a work in progress. We have also worked with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin on this project.
6. We have organized two walks through the hemlocks with naturalist staff of BCPL

7. We have communicated more frequently than ever before with more newsletters containing information on all of these activities.
8. We are reassessing the wisdom of seeking a rezoning of Van Vliet Lake. You will hear more about this in a later report. However, in the last 2 years, both Oxbow and Wildcat have been rezoned in response to the land use plan done previously.
9. We have established a website – which is regularly updated – to provide information to members and residents. It is a valuable tool to learn about the association and its activities.
10. We have continued to monitor the boat landing for trash – and it seems to be very clean.

We have more work to do.

1. We need to finish the management plan and probably seek a grant for another plan as there will undoubtedly be unanswered questions and issues. We want the plan to be a living plan.
2. We will need to continue our monitoring of water quality and for exotics.
3. We need to continue our efforts to assure the preservation of the Van Vliet Hemlocks for all to enjoy.
4. We need to determine the direction that should be taken on rezoning.
5. We need to continue to reach out to all the neighbors on Van Vliet to involve them in preserving, protecting and enjoying this wonderful resource.

I would like to read something which I received from our consultant on the Lake Management project, Steve McComas. It says:

“I’ve worked with lake associations for over 25 years. The Van Vliet group is in the top 5% of all the lake groups I have worked with. This ranking is based on the organized approach to include volunteers, the number of members who are making significant contributions, and the real passion of the lake residents to work to understand how the lake works and then to make sound ecological decisions to protect and improve the lake.

Keep up the good work.

Steve M”

This is the kind of work that your Board has been able to do in the past year by working together. There is a new energy and spirit on this Board. On behalf of every member of the Association and every owner on Van Vliet Lake, I want to tell Jill, Nancy, Jim, Jeff, George, Dick and Tim thank you. I also want to thank Steve Smithson for his great efforts on the lake management plan. It has been the best year I have seen and we need more like them to continue this work.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Olson
President