

*Friends of Shabbona Lake State Park
Meeting, February 10, 2016, 7:00 PM
Resource Bank Schoolhouse*

Spencer Meyers opened the meeting with Clint Sands, Tim Tausch, Rich McElligott, Joe Lenkaitis, Larry & Shirley Kimpan, Denny Sands and Kathy Sands in attendance. Not attending were Duane Landmeier, Frankie Benson and Jan Knudsen. Spencer informed the board that Frankie Benson and Jan Knudsen had resigned their positions. He said that both would continue their memberships.

Others in attendance were Jim Frances, Stan Zarnowiecki, Roger Sheilds, Matt McClane, Tim Pierce and Dag Grada. Spencer welcomed everyone and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

Spencer highlighted the projects accomplished in 2015. Because the organization acquired full 501(c)3 status so quickly, we were able to apply for grants to repair the boat launch and the lower barrier fence. He thanked Duane and Rich for the work they did with grants and donations. The parking lots (handicap spaces) and trail crossing were restriped with donated paint, labor by the club and Danny Rey operating striping machine from the City of DeKalb. Rich planted water willows. Clint from Lakeside Bait and Tackle, donated the money raised from customers and fishing events, to purchase Walleye to restock the lake. Denny said that Lakeside has had this donation jar for years. Frankie, Matt, Joe and park staff developed a plan for park beautification project. The project is to plant flowers and bushes at the entrance and turn around signs.

Denny explained the Treasurer's Report. He said we had an amazing year. The Barrier project cost \$2,412.50. The ISA grant was \$1,200 and Friends matched for \$1,200.00. The Walleye donation from Lakeside was \$1,998.25. The total inflows for the year were \$9,135.75. The total outflows for the year were \$8,103.63. The cash on hand is \$1,032.12. Tim T. made a motion

to approve the Treasurer's Report. Rich seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Spencer spoke about dues and donations. He asked that if you are not a member, please join and if you are a member, to rejoin. Denny had Friends brochures that he passed out to everyone to distribute in hopes of raising our membership. He said that 150 brochures were given out at the Schaumburg Fishing Show. More opportunities to pass out the brochure are coming up with the Tinley Fish Show, the Rockford Fish Show and the Rockford Camping Show. Clint donated the use of his copy machine and paper to make the brochures. Spencer thanked Denny for the good job on the brochures.

Spencer introduced Matt. He spoke about the park beautification project. He passed around drawings of the project. He said there were four goals. One, to plant native plants for animal food. Two, not to block the sign by using low growing plants. Three, to use a seasonal emphasis for color. Four, easy maintenance. He had a list of plants he had researched. Rich volunteered to reach out to local nurseries to obtain quotes for the plants Matt suggested. Denny mentioned that he would like to see this done well and that we should spend money on this project, like the other projects that have been completed. Everyone agreed. The area around the sign will be an oval shape for ease of mowing. There will be a small trench between the lawn and planting area. Joe and the park staff have prepped the turn around sign. Joe said that they are clearing out invasive plants and brushes in the area of the entrance sign. This is being done so that the sign can be seen well from a distance. Matt said maintenance should be twice a year. Matt has a Girl Scout group that will donate a day, to help with the park beautification project. Dag mentioned that we should contact Josh Clark from the DeKalb County Forest Preserve about plants for free or reduced cost. Rich volunteered to contact the Forest Preserve.

Joe said that the entrance sign is still a work in progress and a beautiful sign on its own. Sometimes less is more. Matt and Joe will meet about the entrance

sign. Spencer asked Matt if he would do a drawing of the entrance sign planting. Matt agreed to do the drawing.

The deadline for the park beautification project quotes will be April 7th, our next meeting date.

It was agreed to have the turn around sign completed in the spring for marketing our organization.

The pig roast was discussed with concern for the cost of the event with money going out and not coming in. Many agreed that spring is not the right time to hold this event. Clint said that he and Heather (state park concessionaires) had discussed the pig roast since the last meeting. Their idea is to sponsor a busy day when the café would donate a percentage of their sales to Friends. He suggested that other activities were needed to draw people. Stan suggested the Kids Casting that ISA does. Denny suggested the big canoes the state owns for rides. Dag suggested the Dragon Boat. Denny said that the Dragon Boat is a member of Friends. Spencer said Jan had offered musicians she knew; just let her know the date. Denny was asked about giving lake history pontoon rides. Everyone liked all the ideas.

Spencer spoke about the two grant proposals. One grant application is with the DeKalb County Community Foundation to repair the rearing pond. The repairs needed are regarding the pond and a new drainage pipe. Kyler Excavating is \$12,000.00. The grant is for \$12,000.00.

Denny explained the history of the rearing pond. It was designed to be a retention pond for silt. The first site superintendent and Denny said "let's put fish in it ". At first they put musky in it, but the return with them was a small percentage. Then they tried walleye and lastly bass. The bass gave the biggest return at over fifty percent.

Spencer explained that 501(c)3 organizations receive preference in their consideration of awards and that DCCF is looking for this type of project. Letters of Support stating, that we work with other groups and organizations to complete a project, are also encouraged. We have several letters written on our behalf. We have letters from the state, the Shabbona Lake Sportsman Club, the Boys Scouts, the Illinois Smallmouth Alliance, local musky clubs and the state park concessionaires. Denny mentioned that Bob Smith, IDNR engineer has already put in a lot time on this project, Joe has done the surveying and the volunteers will put in 80 man hours to complete the project. Spencer explained how all of that is also important that is included in the grant application. Deadline is March 1st. We will receive an answer two months later.

Spencer explained why we should join the DeKalb Nonprofit Partnership organization through DCCF. They do one fundraiser a year. By being a member, we will receive some of that money and it will help with our grant application.

The second grant application is with Duane's musky club. Spencer and Duane have discussed it. Duane gave the information to Spencer for the application.

Between the two applications, we hope to be awarded enough money to make the necessary rearing pond repairs. The optimal time to do this project is August.

Stan mentioned a Wetland Program that we should look into for assistance with the rearing pond project. He also had information about a federal rate, in kind donation wage, to use for volunteer hours. He gave the information to Spencer to follow up on.

There was a discussion about the Shabbona Fireworks joining the Friends group. Spencer's concern is about liability and insurance. Denny explained how this is one of the biggest events in the park, drawing 4,000 to 5,000 people. This has been tabled until concrete numbers for insurance are obtained by Spencer.

Tim Tausch (**Tausch Technologies**) and Jim Frances (Heartland Cable) presented information and a quote to run fiber optics to the Camping Registration Building with microwave radios mounts. Light poles, throughout the campground, would be access points. Campers would have the option to pick and pay for the service they need. The monthly cost is \$1,200.00. Installation cost is \$20,000. There were suggestions for possible funding discussed, including federal money and grants. Tim, who is a member/director of Friends, and Jim were thanked for their presentation.

Stan mentioned that the website needed updating. He noted that the park has very aggressive invasive plant species that is spread by lawn mowers. He stated the bathroom by the boat launch is bad. He was informed that the bathrooms are on the IDNR list for repair.

Collecting dues was discussed. Some suggestions included to first send an email, posting on Facebook, the website, sending a letter and following up with a second email.

Elections for Directors will be held on April 7, 2016.

The Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016, at 7:00 P. M., at the Resource Bank Schoolhouse.

Time P. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Sands
Secretary