

**HOWELL TOWNSHIP LAKE RESTORATION & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES - JANUARY 19, 2023. (Echo Lake Pavilion)**

**Members Present:** Ed Runyon, Chair Elizabeth Naskiewicz Vlad Markov Bob DeLeonard Howard Belton Dan LaGuardia **Members Excused:** Dan Brescia Mary Ann Cernak Kathi Novak **Absent:** Ira Thor **Also Present:** Jerry Barron Steven Fetcher Guest: Wes Johnson

**Opening of Meeting:** Ed Runyon, Chairman, opened the meeting at 10:00 am. A quorum was present. He welcomed newly appointed member, Dan LaGuardia. The minutes from the November 17, 2022 meeting were read by Elizabeth Naskiewicz. A motion to approve was made by Vlad Markov, seconded by Ed Runyon and carried.

**Hearing of Concerns of Guests in Attendance:** Guest, Wes Johnson observed the meeting as he has recently retired and is contemplating becoming involved as a Township volunteer.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1) Open Space Natural Areas (Bear Swamp-BSNA & Big Woods-BWNA)**

- a. Warm weather grasses in fields (BSNA) - No mowing possible due to weather conditions.
- b. Maintenance of area between Maxim Rd & Bear Swamp Pond - see above
- c. Open Space Element of Master Plan - Nothing to report.
- d. Forestry & Woodlot Management Program Status - We are waiting on the Manager's decision. Ed stated that we have gotten some names but cannot get moving until okayed by Town. At that time, Justin will handle details. Howard Belton will reach out to him.

**2) Deer Survey (BSNA & BWNA)**

- a. Thermal imaging & spotlight survey - None taking place currently.
- b. Deer kill reports - Number of carcass pickups this year are down a little (164). The State numbers are not in yet.

**3) Scout Projects** -No projects being done involving this Committee at this time.

**4) Township Lakes**

- a. Brick Utilities: lake sample reports:  
Ed Runyon will put together list for Brick Utilities to run samples
- b. Lake levels Drawdown Permits:  
According to Ed and Howard Belton, all the lakes that can be lowered are down. The good freeze we had recently will help the unwanted vegetation issue.
- c. Regulation adherence enforcement/Viable suggestions for patrolling.  
Discussion took place on lack of monitoring of open spaces that continues to plague the Township due to no provisions for patrolling. Discussion about approaching Council again to come up with a plan to alleviate this situation.

**5) Lake Dredging Status** - According to Ed Runyon, Lake Louise and Sparrow Lake really need dredging, however, there is currently no money the budget allocated for dredging. As a possible solution, monies could be allocated ear marked for lakes dredging and management each year from the Open Space Funds collected.

**6) Security & uses for Open Space and Natural Areas:**

It was suggested by Elizabeth Naskiewicz, in order to make it enforceable, we again approach the Council concerning creating the Ordinance that was to follow the Resolution they passed a few years ago listing the Rules and Regulations for Howell Township Open Space.

**January 19, 2023, continued**

**7) Report of Green Team (on subjects relating to this Committee):** Jerry Barron reported on the Township's annual tree giving plans for this year. Trees will be given out on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, along with other activities taking place at Echo Lake. Additionally, all grammar school children, not just 3<sup>rd</sup> graders as, in the past, will be given trees this year. Ed stated he will get back to Lisa Doud on trees for BSNA when he sees Bob Williams. He suggested getting the Middle School children to assist with this project.

**8) 2023 Budget request/Operating & Capital Expenditures:**

There has been no official Budget Meeting to date.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**1) Lake Louise Dam:** Work has been completed.

**2) Fishing Contest:** Steven Fetcher spoke on the annual fishing contest, "Hooked on Fishing" is being moved this year to Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. He has met with Fish & Wildlife. The last stocking prior to the derby will be in May. Copies of the fishing derby were presented for review. Bob DeLeonard is working with Steven to iron out details. There will be a meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs Program" was explained by Bob DeLeonard, as he trained in the program extensively when it was started. He reported that the Optimist Club is interested in getting involved with the program.

**3) New signage on Open Space:** Nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**\*Formation of Sub Committees:**

The following Sub Committees for the year:

**a.) Open Space & Natural Areas/Forestry Management:** Ed Runyon, Elizabeth Naskiewicz, Howard Belton, Vlad Markov

**b.) Deer & other Wildlife Surveys:** Dan Brescia

**c.) Township lakes & streams/Information to the public:** Ed Runyon, Mary Ann Cernak  
Howard Belton, Bob DeLeonard

**d.) Projects, Grants & Funding:** Mary Ann Cernak, Ed Runyon

\*Placement on Committees will be discussed with those absent at the next meeting.

Discussion took place concerning this Committee putting together a format and attending outside meetings such as Shade Tree Commission and Environmental Commission.

**Adjournment:** With no further business to address, a motion was made by Vlad Markov, Seconded by Dan LaGuardia and carried to adjourn. Chairman, Ed Runyon brought the meeting to a close at 11:08 am. The next meeting is Thursday, March 16, 2023, 10:00 am at Echo Lake Pavilion.

Submitted for posting/Elizabeth Naskiewicz 3/30/23

Due to lack of quorum at the March 16, 2023 LR&WMC Meeting, these minutes were not able to be approved at that time. They were approved by a quorum of all members attending the January meeting (see above), by email vote, on March 17, 2023.