

Minutes of the 92th Annual Meeting
of the
Pinewoods Association
Old Stage Road, Higgins Lake
Roscommon, MI
July 30, 2011

Call to Order and Instructions

The 92nd meeting of the Pinewoods Association was called at 10:07 a.m. President Sharkey Fink explained that Treasurer Erik Geupel and Secretary Lauris Wade were unable to attend the meeting. Sharkey related her long held aspiration to control an entire meeting – and welcomed her chance.

Remembrances

Sharkey asked for a moment of silence to remember those who had passed away in the last year: Laura Gaus, Howard Baumgartel, and Wilbur Volker.

Loving thoughts were extended to Bill Cline who was in Mercy Hospital at the time of meeting.

Sharkey noted the marriages of John Hoey to Lisa Olason, and Timothy Bennett to Amy Welch.

The following births were recognized: Stella Wren Lucia Mitchell born to Amy Taylor and Jason Mitchell. Senaeve Pacelli was born to Becky Bunting and Dave Pacelli.

Proof and Notice to Hold Meeting

The Notice to Hold Meeting and Proxy Forms were mailed to all shareholders of the Association in May, 2011 by Secretary Lauris Wade. Financial statements and Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting were provided by Treasurer Erik Geupel. The complete document set was posted on the internet. All materials necessary for the meeting were printed and made available to the membership on entry to the Hall.

Roll Call Results

Of the 435 Pinewoods Association Shares outstanding, 336 (77%) were present for the Annual Meeting, either in person or by proxy. This establishes a quorum. The Secretary notes this is a significant increase in Share Participation compared to 2009 (68%) and 2010 (67%).

Review of 2010 Minutes: Sharkey called for corrections. The minutes were approved as corrected.

New Members: None Noted.

Treasurers Report

Sharkey Fink gave the Treasurers Report for 2011. The Operating Report and Balance Sheet formats have significantly changed in order to make them easier to read and manage. The fiscal year was changed from a June-May format to January 1 to December 31. This allows the operating statement to align with the budget. Because of these changes and a change in accountant, there were some 'alignment' adjustments and accountant finally got the payroll taxes corrected.

The Operating Statement shows a similar income from 2009 to 2010. This reflects near \$4700 in cost savings. Income stability was achieved despite the loss of \$5000 in voluntary contributions collected in 2009, which did not recur in 2010. As such, Pinewoods did even better than it shows on the Operating Statement.

The 2011 Budget builds in a surplus of \$5883. Please note this is the first year Pinewoods has operated within a formalized Budget. At the time of this meeting, Pinewoods Association is \$1500 over budget, but there is an expectation the Budget will balance by the end of this year.

Please note that modest increases in dues and board rates were necessitated by increasing food and energy costs. On June 30, Accounts Receivable measured \$7000. This degree of arrears compares very favorably with the \$17,730 in Accounts Receivable at the same time last year. Erik Geupel commends the strong "Debt chasing effort by the president." Sharkey admitted to 'chasing them down.' The membership was asked to inform the Secretary if a member is not receiving bills.

The Board has determined not to use credit cards due to cost. It was determined that credit card users had longstanding favorable histories of paying their bills, whether by credit card or check. The problem largely lies with non credit card users.

The Board encourages members to pay bills electronically. This means consulting with your bank as to their procedures for paying through the bank. If members pay electronically, accounting costs can be reduced. The Board is aware this is an inconvenience for people paying from foreign countries.

Sharkey reminded members that Pinewoods Association makes HLPOA payments for each cottage. The HLPOA can and does bill individuals, but Pinewoods members have their membership paid through Pinewoods Association. This does not mean a family within a cottage can not establish a separate membership if they choose. Those dues are going toward good causes and are very welcome.

Dining Hall Meal Count has fallen minimally. We are currently 104 meals short of last year. It is noted that last years record attendance included the Bennett family reunion. This year Meal Count will include Farquharson's Family Reunion.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee: Frank Cochran announced his committee's intention to rewrite the Bylaws and make Sharkey Fink President for Life, but unfortunately Sharkey had yet to agree. Speaking on behalf of the Nominating Committee, Frank Cochran then announced that Philip Sinclair Will was the 2011 nominee for the Pinewoods Board. A request for additional nominees from the floor was made. There was no response. Frank Cochran then moved that the nominee be approved by acclamation . John Baumgartel seconded the motion. Phil Will was elected by unanimous acclamation.

Memorial Fund: Anne Sloan reported that \$15 interest was the only addition to the fund this year. Anne requested proposals for use of Memorial Fund assets. Katie Eubanks then presented a check to the Memorial Fund, a \$227 donation from Alex Eubanks' tote bag sales.

Dining Hall Committee: Sharkey reiterated that we are 104 meals behind last year. It was reported that Alice has been hired as the new Cook. Alice has relayed an interest in the manager's position should Kathy Piehl resign or retire. However, Kathy is anticipated to manage the Dining Hall for at least five more years. A new oven has been installed. Kathy has needed this for years but the cost was outside the Budget if purchased new. Ed Babcock found a nearly new oven for \$1000.

Kathy introduced Alice, her daughter Nicole, and this year's staff to a standing ovation and pointed out the large 'thank you' card they had made for the oven improvement.

Sharkey then extended her enthusiastic appreciation for Bitsy Fitzsimmons and Katie Eubanks accurate, reliable and dedicated checking of the billing forms we fill out each week, for which there was enthusiastic applause. Bitsy acknowledged help from all of the other committee members. Katie Eubanks reminded people that Kathy has a new email for sending in arrival and departure information: kjpiehl60@gmail.com. Sharkey mentioned Pinewoods Dining Hall has installed a 'magic jack' with a new telephone number. If the system works, we can keep the same number (821-1332) next year. Katie Eubanks also reminded people to remember their tips for the staff.

Buildings and Grounds: Phil Will asked for new members to join this committee. The annual Pinewoods Camp tour with Ed Babcock has been completed. Ongoing maintenance was reviewed, completed projects were assessed, and new projects were identified. Financial expense has been kept to minimum. What is done is prioritized and controlled by the availability of funds. Much of the task is preventive, such as the emergency water tanks being clear of trees.

More immediate and current needs include guest house septic system cleaning, roof replacement, and tree removal. (A tree fell and grazed the building last year). The defibrillator will be immediately placed back on its hook on the dining hall wall.

Completed projects include installation of the new oven. A second oven is sought.

Deferred projects include painting the Dining Hall. A volunteer group materialized for this project but weather refused to cooperate, so power washing was the only part done. The tennis court needs resurfacing and strap replacement.

Other projects. The Managers Apartment septic drain line is clogged with roots. The question is how to use the space if the bathroom is removed. Suggestions include a Pinewoods Records Storage, a Pinewoods Library, a Coffee House, or a Pinewoods Store.

Kathy would like to replace the milk dispenser with a cooler. She would like another shelf by the freezer. The floor section by the ice machine needs better repairs than have been done.

Phil proposed creation of a list of cottages interested in having septic systems pumped at the same time in the spring, which might give us a discounted rate.

The deep water raft subject was brought up, and left tabled.

Higgins Lake Foundation and HLPOA: Liz Wade reported HLF swimming lessons were provided and lessons will be repeated next year. She recommended attending the David Fry presentation "Saving the Family Cottage" being held later today. The Boat Wash may become a test project at the South State Park and become a requirement for putting boats in the lake. A new milfoil harvester is being purchased. Awareness Day is coming up so please support the foundation and its projects. There will be a new study on Higgins Lake water levels and a state-wide study of swimmers itch. Laurie Tudor Smith was named Friend of the Lake by the HLPOA.

Community Foundation: Kathy Lawrence reported she is a new member of the foundation board. This is a place where the the Tricamps make a difference. RCCF started with Jack Wade, Rob Morley, Ted Braun and Hank Junot.. The endowment is now up to \$5.7 million. This year, over \$250,000 in grants will be written for the community. RCCF is updating the web page. The Riviera resort is hosting Appreciation day later in August. Kathy described the Trailway Project, which is ongoing. She also mentioned creating your own endowment fund for minimum of \$5000. Annual reports were made available..

Fire and Safety: Jean Lawrence reminded everyone to be careful and call 911 for any emergency. Fire extinguishers last only two minutes and each cottage should be checking their extinguishers. Ed can help refill them. Gerrish Township has changed its fire rating from 9 to 7 ISO. This can save you money on insurance and has already saved Pinewoods \$1000. Jean appreciated not seeing discarded cigarette butts in camp and reminded everyone to careful with extension cords and lamp wiring.

Communication: Rip Loomis was not at the meeting. Sharkey delivered the report. Stephanie Fitzgerald was applauded for her work with Pinewords. Stephanie has agreed to manage and edit Pinewords for another year. Sharkey thanked Liz Wade for keeping messages going by email. This function is moving gradually to the Board. Sharkey managed the Pinewoods Directories this year and offered thanks to Duncan Lawrence and Carol Baumgartel for their prior work on this project. Sharkey asked that all address, phone, and email changes be sent to her at sharkeyfink@cox.net.

Unfinished Business

Larry Bennett asked about the deep water raft.. Sharkey indicated they would table the discussion for now as the committee members were not here. Frank Cochran suggested issue be left on the table for another year. Discussion was dropped.

New Business;

Judith Foster proposed sending a note of condolence to the Mark Markey family following his death in the Mackinac Race this year. Judith has contact information and will present her note to Sharkey first before sending it on behalf of the Pinewoods family.

Phil Will announced the Blue Whale Racing Schedule. There will be shirts available for participants thanks to Alex Eubanks and his store. (Go Alex!!)

President's Report.

Sharkey Fink opened by stating she had prepared an in-depth report on each and every member of the Pinewoods family, but due to self-imposed time constraints and good taste, she refrained from presenting the report "at this time". Sharkey then offered thanks to people who work so diligently behind the scenes.

The "incomparable" Jean Lawrence's love for this place runs deep and she stays vigilant. She is a fountain of information. Many of our largest projects were given their starts by Jean. The buried wires were partly her doing, starting near 13 years ago. There was a big round of applause for our "Pinewoods Guardian Angel."

Nick Dewey is our constant legal and financial Guardian. Nick Dewey's diligent work is one of the biggest reasons Pinewoods finances turned around so quickly.

Thanks were extended to Bitsy and Bob Fitzsimmons, Jane Ferguson, and Frank Cochran. Thanks were given for being on top of things and for the right answers. Thanks were extended to Ed Babcock and Kathy Piehl, for going the extra mile even when it meant more work. Thanks were given to the Lawrence Family for managing the rafts and other Camp tasks we don't even see. A big thank you went to Howie Schultz for his work on the trails, our road, and the path.

And finally, the Pinewoods Association as a whole was thanked for their contributions and patience.

And with this, Sharkey moved to close the meeting.

Nick Dewey and Award Presentation

Nick stood up and commented on how much credit should extend to Sharkey. “We felt there should be a memento for Sharkey.” He held a plastic bag wrapped surprise. “You can see it is an expensive gold-plated item..... It is not, but it comes with deep emotion and thanks for all you have done for all of us over a long period of time.”

Nick then read the proclamation on the award.

Paul H. Bruske *DISTINGUISHED* Service Award.

Presented to

Sharkey Fink

For outstanding service to Pinewoods Camp, this 30th day of July in the year 2011.

“For all the years you have given to the Dining Hall and for almost single handedly obtaining underground electric service for the camp. For engineering tremendous cost savings in our operations during your three years of outstanding service on the Board”

Congratulations were then given. This was followed by a rousing and standing ovation.

Ratification of Past Actions

Kate Eubanks then moved that the membership ratify “all actions taken, contracts entered into, and other matters performed during the past year by members of the Board, either individually or collectively, in the performance of duties on behalf of the Corporation”. The motion was seconded by Frank Cochran and it was approved unanimously.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:06. Sharkey Fink again setting a new standard for the Annual Meeting: a length of 59 minutes, 27 seconds.

Respectfully submitted,

John Lauris Wade MD

Secretary of the Pinewoods Association Board of Directors