



BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
July 1, 2020  
Blackman Township Hall and ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:15 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** Kenny Price, Kurt LaFrance (Zoom), Jack Ripstra, Deb Snell, Kay Brown, Cathy Jehnzen (Zoom), Dan Kaser, Jeff Lolkus, John Minar (Zoom), Kurt Rudolph (Zoom), and Benji Ward

**Absent:** Jon Hoyle

**Guests:** none

**AGENDA REVIEW:**

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda as amended by Benji Ward, seconded by Dan Kaser, and approved by all

**MINUTES:**

There was a motion to accept the emailed May minutes as sent by Benji Ward, seconded by Dan Kaser, and approved by all.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Deb reported that there is nothing new. We have 74 paid memberships for the calendar year versus 101 at this time last year. She will email a renewal reminder. Jack noted that we paid for 2 years of Wild Apricot to obtain a discount. We purchased a small trailer for \$500 for transporting boats for clearing work and it is in the pole barn. We also had a miscellaneous donation.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported that at the end of June 2020 there was a total in cash (restricted and checking) of \$15,811.23. It was noted that Kay's idea to review our insurance coverage has saved about \$1000.

**RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:**

Jack and Kay looked at clearing three downed oak trees near Hague Rd. Landowners will remove limbs and asked that trunks be cut into 8' lengths. The flat bottom boat will be used and left with the landowner who will repair. The flat-bottomed boat was deemed worthless by the Board and OK'd by the President. The board also discussed agreed to the disposal of excess equipment including the 300# fiberglass rowboat, which President authorized.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Kenny had the following discussion items:

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- 100 Year Birthday Recognition – The board discuss Betty Desbiens 100 year birthday on Saturday.
- Newsletter – The seconde newsletter will be published on August 15. Therefore, articles will need to be emailed in by the end of the month. Articles include: Membership Renewal, July 11 Paddle, Revised Calendar, the standard waiver (so people can print and sign and allow for better social distancing), and a letter from Kenny
- July Paddle – The July 11 Paddle will be at 11 AM at Vandercook Lake. The pop-up canopy and sign-up table should be brought.

- August Paddle – The August 8 Paddle will be at Thorn/Watkins Lake. The State Worden has been contacted.
- September River Clean-up – There will be two trailers of canoes brought to RA Green park and groups will be split to travel upstream and downstream and return to the launch site. A trailer will be sited at Stonegate. The upstream group will paddle to Monroe St. and return collecting material for disposal at RA Green. The trailer at Stonegate will be brought back to RA Green and the contents transferred to the dumpster.
- October Paddle - Baw Beese Lake on the St Joseph River in Hillsdale remains the replacement lake paddle for this month.
- Environmental Actions – Kenny would like to see GREAT identify more future environmental actions that the groups can do. Kay will look into recycling activities.
- Vehicle and Event Signage – Cathy noted that the artwork is needed to create the Signs at Fritz. Deb will check with another family member and if that falls through we will pay Fritz to create the needed artwork. This should be determined by mid July.
- How to come back in 2021 – The board discussed: participating in JAXPO 2021, improving our focus on Environmental Stewardship, and targeting other groups in the use of our equipment.

**Standing Committees:**

**Communication/Newsletter:** see above, also additional article responsibilities were assigned.

**Finances:** No report.

**Activities & Calendar:** No report

**Education & Advocacy:** No report.

**Annual Cleanup:** No report.

**Nominations:** Jon Hoyle may be leaving the board.

**GREAT Equipment:** No report.

**River Debris Removal:** No report.

**GREAT land and building:** No report.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:**

**Water Trail:** No report.

**Grand River Trail Map and Booklet:** on hold.

**RELATED GROUPS:**

**Watershed Council:** No report.

**Earth Day:** No report.

**JCCD:.** No report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Nothing to review.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Nothing new to review.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02.

The next monthly meeting will be August 5, 2020 tentatively at Summit Township Hall at 7:00 P.M. and via ZOOM.

Kurt Rudolph, Recorder of Minutes

*The mission of GREAT is to promote the protection and preservation of the Grand River Watershed through activities and educational programs.*