



BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
October 7, 2020  
Blackman Township Hall and ZOOM

The meeting was called to order by President Kenny Price at 7:08 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Absent:** Jon Hoyle, Kurt LaFrance, Deb Snell, Benji Ward

**Guests:** none

**AGENDA REVIEW:**

There was a motion to accept the emailed agenda by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Jack Ripstra, and approved by all

**MINUTES:**

There was a motion to accept the emailed September minutes as corrected by Kurt Rudolph, seconded by Cathy Jehnzen, and approved by all.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

No report. Jack noted that there were no new members in September and we are down 21 members when compared to last year.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer's Balance Sheet, Budget Comparison and Profit & Loss reports were emailed out. Jack reported that at the end of September 2020 there was a total in cash (restricted and checking) of \$14,785.83. The P&L Statement shows that we are short \$613.01 for the year and we were \$761.40 to the good last year at this time.

**RIVER MASTER'S REPORT:**

On Saturday September 26, Jack, Kay, Cathy, Dan, Dan Varna and Ralph Squires cleared from Youth Haven to the Trestle Bridge.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Kenny has not posted the pictures from the clean-up. Kenny also had the following discussion items:

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- September River Clean-up – We had 20 junior ROTC cadets, 2 adult leaders, 11 board members, and 10 members of the public (including 1 from Traverse City) assist in removing 6 cubic yards of trash and 3 tires.
- October Paddle – The Put-in and Take-out will all be at Trestle Park on Dixon Rd beginning at 11AM. The paddle will be out and back from that point. Deb Snell is the lead and Jack is the Assistant. Board members will meet between 10 and 10:15.
- Ideas for Next Year–
  1. Continue to work with Upper Grand River Watershed.
  2. Something similar to the River Rouge Virtual Tour (John Minar)
  3. 2021 Paddles to be identified in December

- Family Lake Paddle – performed once a year and rotated annually around area lakes (Grass Lake, Swains, Vineyard, etc.).
  - Grand River Trip Paddles – continue with 3 per year rotated to complete the entire Upper Grand over the course of 3-4 years.
  - A trip outside of Upper Grand and one family paddle and clean-up.
  - Extra paddles like the Thursday Evening Rookery Tour and the Moonlight paddle.
6. Expedition 2020 Reboot – Concern expressed with Covid extending into summer 2021
7. Paddles with other non-profits dealing with “at risk youth” like Youth Haven, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, “Save Our Youth”, These might be at a lake event in the summer with assigned time slots.

**Standing Committees:**

**Communication/Newsletter:** see above.

**Finances:** No report.

**Activities & Calendar:** No report

**Education & Advocacy:** No report.

**Annual Cleanup:** No report.

**Nominations:** No report.

**GREAT Equipment:** No report.

**River Debris Removal:** No report.

**GREAT land and building:** Jack presented a picture of the Cardinal black metal cutout on the entry door in to the barn. Cathy made a motion to permanently mount the piece to the door, John Minar seconded the motion and all approved. Jack also presented a memorial bench option in memory of Andy Lefave. The idea was discussed and tabled to the next meeting. Kurt will provide Jack with another very similar option that has been used.

**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:**

There was some discussion of the new owners of property with the Stone Bridge by the Stone School property South of Ella Sharp Park.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18.

The next monthly meeting will be November 4, 2020 at Blackman 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.*