

LAKE EDGEWOOD CONSERVACY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

Lake Edgewood Community Center 715 W. Shore Dr. Martinsville, IN 46151

ATTENDEES

In attendance were Director Kelly Stege, Director Jake Rakowski, Director Bree Nealy, Director Jeff Anderson, Director Joseph Stallsworth, and Financial Director Don Horn. There were 13 freeholders in attendance.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Steve McConnel from our insurance company, Morgan Insurance was there to review our policy. In addition, he shared that the insurance would not cover fallen trees unless it fell on one of the insured buildings or the district owned docks and the lack of coverage for the fallen trees in the lake.

READING OF MINUTES FROM MEETING

The minutes were tabled until the July meeting due to our guest speaker.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Director Don Horn will be presenting the May reports in July along with first review on the 2025 Budget.

TREES IN LAKE

The LECD Directors are aware of the two downed trees in the lake. The first being off the northwest side off Freeholder Erretts' property. The log has been removed and the treetop was left in the water.

The second tree is in the beach cove off Freeholder Mercer's property and is blocking access to the cove. **PLEASE proceed with extreme caution in the two areas. Ropes and signs will be installed to mark these areas to stay away from.**

The Lake does not have funds available for the removal of the trees and it is not covered by our insurance. There have been trees that have fallen into the waterways in the past and the homeowners have remediated the debris without assistance from the district. Comments were made about the precedent that would be set if the District removed the trees.

Freeholder Bart Mercer has requested that the board pay for removal of this tree top. His insurance will only cover the portion on top of the boat house. There has been an initial estimate of \$6,900.00 for this removal for the remaining portion in the lake. The Board has sought out legal counsel since this tree top is sitting on the Mercer's Geothermal loop in the water. The decision was made that removal could damage it creating liability for the District. The Mercer's stated their insurance would not come after the lake in this instance but, documentation to this was not readily available. The board asked Bart to go back to his insurance since the tree is on his loop which is still part of his property. For now, the tree will be left in place. There will be a call scheduled between all parties. Until then Mr. Mercer was going to call IDNR for direction.

Everyone sympathizes with the loss that mother nature can bring and discussion was had surrounding volunteers helping with the debris by the beach area. It was felt that the board could

not sanction, due to liability concerns. The main log weight up to 12,000lbs is still attached to the top and the possibility of injury is too great and should be left to professionals.

- We have asked our insurance to look into coverage options, but he did not feel any would be available. If he were to find one, consideration would be given to the increase to our yearly District Policy premium of \$9800.
- A freeholder suggested the Board hire an Arborist to identify any trees that are considered dead or suspect. Then notification would be sent to the freeholder that action could need to be taken. Investigation will have to take place to see what the cost impact would be to protect the District. The board's first responsibility is to be a good steward of the District's finances and is always looking to maintain or reduce the annual budget that impacts everyone's taxes.
- We have such a beautiful community surrounded by vintage trees. We can all use this as a reminder to review our insurance policies and make sure our homes, docks and outbuildings are covered for full replacement value.

WEIR REPAIR

The board was asked to look into costs to make repairs to the Weir closest to the beach. A proposal was given by Wallace Construction for the amount of \$3,569.00. Freeholder Bart Mercer expressed his concern that the proposal did not go far enough to engineer a lasting solution. Discussion ensued about the purpose of the weirs and the large rains that during the year bring an exorbitant amount of water and debris into the lake. The proposal was tabled and a new solution will be investigated further under the newly formed Dredging committee.

CLUBHOUSE RENTAL WITH GREGG TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

There have been discussions in the community about reclaiming the space that is currently leased by the Gregg Township Fire Department. There have been many suggestions on ways we could use this space for the community. There will be a clubhouse committee created to gather and present ideas and costs to the board. The GTFD has paid rent through the end of the year. We are required to give them a 45-day notice that we are not continuing the contract and this letter will be sent certified mail once created. A motion was made by Director Rakowski and seconded by Director Stallsworth and all were in favor. None opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Rakowski motioned to adjourn at 8:52 P.M. and Director Nealy seconded. All were in favor.

Submitted by,
Kelly Stege
LECD Chairman

The next meeting will be the July 9th Monthly Meeting at 7:00 P.M.