

SLIA Meeting Minutes - 2/19/2020

Countryside Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm.

Board members present: Gary Goldblatt, Jeanne Peterson, Dan Trahan, Ed Meltzer, Cliff Gartner, Brian Wawrzyniak, Tom Truffer, Dave Kruse

Homeowners present: ~40 members

Fremont Township: Herb Riedel, Connie Shanahan, Alicia Dodd, Diana O'Kelley

Approval of the November minutes, motion by T. Truffer, seconded by J. Swanson

Order of Agenda changed to accommodate township representatives discussing the single waste hauler contract and dam project.

Existing Business

Garbage Hauler

- Contract was approved for single waste hauler, which is Groot
- Contract will start April 1st
- No one should charge you to pick up your old garbage cans. Contact the township if you experience this.
- Members can email depts directly at the Township if you have questions
- Members will be getting a letter from Diana shortly. Brochure will be sent by March 1st by Groot containing information regarding the switch.
- Some people will be recognizing savings up to 55% per month
- Leaf vacuum is included for six weeks
- One garbage truck equals 9,000 cars, so moving to a single waste hauler will help make our roads last longer.
- If you're a senior, make sure you contact Groot to get those rates
- May 9th is next shredding event
- Bill Grinnell retired. Alicia Dodd is now the highway commissioner. Worked in Township in five years and has been in this position since December.
- Herb has been here 25 years and will help.

Dam Update by Township

- Good news is we're moving forward with dam project
- Waiting for a few permits, but planning to start construction June 1st. Township doesn't anticipate any delays.
 - Gas line must be separated during the project, so the township is planning on capping both ends of the dam, which Nicor says will serve our members just fine

during the summer months. The township must reconnect the gas line by Nov 1 in order to provide enough supply for winter months, or permit will not be issued.

- Bids will go out in April
- Lowering of the lake six feet will start May 15 and will take about two weeks
- Signs will be posted for detour with entrance closed
- The project is the largest cost the township has ever undertaken

Member Questions

- 1) Are we starting without permits? No, permits have been applied for and we're just waiting for some to complete approval. We don't anticipate any problems with issuance.
- 2) Will we have temporary stop lights out on Gilmer? No, there won't be any temp stoplights. It's way too expensive and would cost \$50K to install. All have to be regulated with Gilmer intersection, which makes it more expensive.
- 3) Is there a way to have a police officer direct traffic flow during high traffic times? It's possible. Lake County raised their rates from \$70 to \$87/hr. If the Association wants to look into it, they can ask Lake County Sheriff.
 - a) We can ask the Lake County Sheriff's dept for them to be there for free, but if they get a call they need to leave.
- 4) Can we put up a No Left turn during rush hours? This will be explored, but may require additional member input.
- 5) Will the Bike Path project from Schwerman to Gilmer conflict with the dam project? That project is projected for 2021, so there shouldn't be a conflict. South Sylvan Drive and the rest of Highland Dr and W Sylvan Dr from dam to Bittersweet is also planned to be re-paved in 2021 at the same time as the Bike Path project. So there will most likely be an entrance closing at Gilmer in 2021.
 - a) Bike Path bids are expected to go out in fall 2020, with project work in 2021
 - b) S Sylvan will get a new road, new curbs, and new catch basins.
- 6) At the beach we have a fire hydrant that pulls water. Will that be out of service during construction? Not sure but it may be OK.
- 7) Township statement: Gas line will be capped in summer, but will be reconnected in Nov for winter. If Township can't guarantee to reconnect the gas line by Nov, then Nicor will not issue their permit and the project start will be delayed.
 - a) Relocating utilities is a big cost of the project.
- 8) Both bays have a lot of water coming in. How are you going to keep the water from reaching the dam? Water level will remain lowered throughout the entire project with pumps.
- 9) With puddles forming in the bay, we're going to have a bug problem. How are we going to handle that?
- 10) When the construction project starts, where will all the trucks be parked? Most of the construction vehicles will be parked on Highland from Midlothian to dam.
- 11) Joined driveway from Highland to Midlothian. How can we keep unwanted traffic from cutting through the driveway.

- a) Township can block driveway on Highland Dr if homeowners with shared driveway would prefer.
 - b) Construction traffic will come only in from Midlothian
- 12) Will the muck bottom be toxic to dogs? Tom Truffer doesn't think it will be toxic. Might smell a bit.
- 13) Do we have an exact date the road close? Possibly Jun 1st or slightly before that in mid-May.
- 14) Is it possible to put temporary speed bumps on Sylvan Dr during project construction?
- a) Township doesn't have the budget for speed humps for this project.
 - b) Budget is \$1M and they have to borrow money for 10 years.
 - c) SLIA can evaluate possible options at Mar or Apr board meetings
 - i) Police setup speed traps
 - ii) Speed humps
 - iii) Temp speed bumps
 - d) Deadman's curve up the hill has 10 kids under 10 years old. Speeding cars is becoming a big safety issue
 - e) Fremont Township is exploring alternative signage and portable radar speed signs that can be cycled through in different locations.
- 15) Will Fremont buses or Groot have to change routes? Summer buses will be re-routed by detour and township will work with Groot.
- 16) Will we still have a single lane over the dam? Yes.
- 17) Will the entrance on Highland Dr be widened? Yes, it will be redone to bring up to state standards and widened. New Guardrail will be installed over dam.
- 18) Fremont Township/IDR will control water levels after the project is completed.
- 19) If weather is heavy and causes project delays, would you stop the project in Nov and start again in Spring, or work through winter. They would work through winter.
- 20) How big of a fish kill do we estimate? Tom researched, but it's hard to predict because most drawdowns occur over winter. We're not really sure. Carp would be most likely to survive.
- a) We can move aerators to keep them flowing.
 - b) We can stock the lake with preferred fish after the project completes and the lake levels return to normal.
- 21) Have we considered any bay dredging during project?
- a) Jeri: It's incredibly expensive now. Muck must be kept onsite, drained, then tested. If fails test, then muck has to be put back.
 - b) EPA must be involved.
- 22) Have we considered ridding the bad fish with a snag net?
- 23) Will lake treatment change with lowered lake?
- 24) Any plan to work with the bay entry point shorelines during the project while the lake is lowered?
- a) Maple Park has been worked on already.

- b) ILM has come out to look at Ravinia Park and has come up with a plan to curve the stream with retention ponds before it gets to the lake, and fix shoreline at Ravinia with large rocks.
 - c) ILM has machinery for land and water access via the boat ramp. They can't use the land access off Crescent or South Sylvan to get into Ravinia.
 - d) In ILM's court to figure out how to split costs and work over multiple years to stay within budget.
 - e) Two pier sections from Ravinia can be moved to Maple.
- 25) Can we remove lily pads at this time? Yes, it would be a good time.
- a) Local native plants should do better during rebound.
- 26) Will all the plants and flowers planted near the dam survive during the lowered lake?
- a) They'll eventually come back, but may take a few years. Native plants will mostly survive.
- 27) Will people expand property into the lake because it's happened before?
- 28) Should we build fish protection huts? We can. Xmas trees work well too.
- 29) Will piers and rafts be put in this year? No.
- 30) Will we need bug control? Depends on water movement, but we'll monitor.

President's Report - G. Goldblatt

- Keep positive about the dam project. Great opportunity to build seawalls, cleanup property near shoreline.
- We're here to help answer or get answers for you
- Shoreline is coming out April 1st
 - Focus on plantings
 - Include answers that we've come with

Vice President's Report - J. Peterson

- Will call the sheriff and ask about directing traffic during rush hour. 6-8am
- Research no left turn options and signage
- Will reach out to township regarding radar/speed signs during project

Treasurer's Report - E. Meltzer

- Taxes are done and SLIA doesn't owe anything.
- Still taking in assessments and paying bills.
- About 50% of homeowners have paid. After June 1st, late fees will be applied.
- Balance looks better than last year.

Beach Report - C. Gartner

- Nothing to report.

Lake Management Report - T. Truffer

- Nothing to report

Parks and Easements Report - J. Swanson

Ravinia Park

- Proposal still in process
- \$23K estimate. Working to figure out if work and cost could be split over multiple years.

EcoChicks made 500 seed balls. 125 were planted in the Maple Park rehabbed shoreline area and off Deadman's Curve; and 125 are saved for internal areas of Maple Park along the streambed and another 125 for the lowland shoreline area in Ravinia Park.

Recreation Report - D. Kruse

- Nothing to report.

Boat Management Report - B. Wawrzyniak

- Went through the boat database and cleaned it up.

New Business

- None.

Other items

- None.

Members Forum

- Scott Hansen
 - Rather than using speed humps, suggested that we have sheriff patrol and give tickets
 - Playground equipment needs replacement (27 years old). Needs inspection to identify what needs to be replaced. Scott will work with Jeri. Would be great to have estimates prior to the annual meeting for budgeting.
 - Basketball slab at Schwerman Park either should be raised and/or drainage should be put in to help Oktoberfest. Flooding was prevalent and the surrounding area was swampy.
- Nancy Hanson
 - Info from Garden Club should be sent by March 15th for April Shoreline.

Closing of meeting: Motioned by J. Peterson, seconded by C. Gartner

Next board meeting will be Wed, Mar 18

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Trahan, Secretary