

**MOKOMA CONSERVANCY**  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Saturday August 26, 2023, 10:00 am  
LMA Cottage  
Phone in 605-3134436 Access Code 772248

**Board Members present:** Tom Minnick (President), Mary Kay Kennedy (Vice President), Eileen Miller (Secretary), John Deckard, Dave Kitts, Tom Richey, Mary Jo Saxe, David Rissmeyer, Teresa Amott, Joe Lundy, Tom Myers (Assistant Treasurer), Mike Sneiderman

On the phone: Tim Reighart

**Call to Order:** Tom Minnick called the meeting to order at 10:02am

**Approval of Minutes** from Previous Meeting

Minutes from the August meeting were previously distributed and reviewed. Motions were made to approve them by Dave Kitts and Teresa Amott. All approved.

**Approval of Financials** (Steve)

Year-end financials were presented at the annual meeting and are attached.

**Nominating Committee Board reorganization**

The slate selected by the nominating committee for the class of 2026 was elected by a quorum vote. It was noted that this is a good group of board members coming in. We will miss outgoing board members Dave Rissmeyer and Mary Jo Saxe who have offered to continue to help with workdays and hikes. Tom thanked them for their service. There was a motion by Tom Richey to keep the current Executive committee as it is. Joe Lundy seconded the motion, and all were unanimously in favor.

**Committee Reports:**

**Land** (John Deckard)

John reported that various equipment has been used this year. The mower belongs to Mark Heim, and the 4-wheeler is Al Pizzica's. When they need service John suggests we should take care of the cost as an operating expense.

There was considerable conversation about the Found Lake deck that is flooded due to the beaver dam nearby. Discussion about how we can create future access to the deck, possibly by moving it further inland, was one option considered. Tom Richey moved; Mary Kay seconded to share the cost of hiring a beaver trapper for beaver removal with costs split equally between the Mokoma Conservancy and Teresa Amott. All were in favor.

A question was posed about plans to mow the field in the Elklick property. Our plan is to mow 1/3 of the field a year. Tom Myers stated he would like to see what happens if we let it grow. Our forester recommended mowing scheduled of 1/3 a year. It is also recommended that we mow in fall

to preserve nature. Dave Kitts suggested an interesting activity could be to mow a maze through the field.

### **Trails** (Tom Myers and Tim Reighart)

It was announced that we will keep the detour route on the Conklin trail following the storm. Tim said there are some trees that are leaning right now in the area of the old path, so it is not a safe option to hike that portion of the path. The Conservancy will need to hire someone to remove the leaning trees if we don't keep the diversion path in place. The trees just missed the Plank Road sign. John Deckard announced that we have 10 new directional signs for the Elclick trail. There will be a work weekend in the fall although a date has not been chosen at this point.

### **Activities** (Mary Kay)

As presented in the Annual Meeting: We had a busy and productive summer of activities. The BearWise program was cancelled due to the weather. We will reschedule this popular event for next summer and will need to schedule it where we can be under cover. Mary Jo had a good group of hikers for the hike through the new Elclick trails. The Sizzler was very successful. The StoryWalk is in place until Labor Day weekend. During nature art with Nancy sun catchers were created. Tim and Dave coordinated the scavenger hunt that had 7 groups and 40 people even though there was competition with the Len Simpson run going on that morning. Creekside yoga was a success with 25 people. Roey was thanked for all the Sullivan Review coverage as well as Facebook posts, and the flyers listing events at beach house. Ideas for programming for next year include a cell phone photography session and a vernal pond presentation again. The pros and cons of offering a 5K were discussed. Hosting a Walk in Penns Woods (which is applied for through the hardwood industry), or a Moonlight walk were discussed. Tom Minnick noted we have diverse program offerings (different ages.)

### **Memorial** (Mary Kay)

As presented in the Annual Meeting: The sign at Elclick is beautiful. The front section is completed, and the back section is currently being worked on. The sign will recognize our Legacy Society (\$25,000 or more) and Heritage Society (\$10,000 or more).

### **Finance** (Tom Richey)

This new committee is looking at restructuring of membership dues & financial support. They will prepare a report for the October meeting. There was a discussion of member levels and timing of decision of the decisions based on end of year letter and new website creation.

### **Fundraising** (Teresa Amott)

Teresa noted there is quite a leap in different donor opportunities from \$1000 to \$10000. She stated the sweet spot is \$5000 and suggest we consider a \$5000 giving level. Again, timing as to the determination of these levels was discussed as we need to consider what will be affected including

website updates, end of year membership letter, bylaws & brochure changes that would be needed. Some options might be that if you belong to the 250 level for 4 years you have an adopt an acre. We need to determine what is our vision for future – what does money go to? Need to have larger vision in front of us including that we are protecting half of water source for Laporte. The fundraising planning committee will work with the strategic planning & finance committees to create the future plan. Possible changes to the membership levels were discussed. A question posed was whether there could be a new sustaining membership for \$10.00 to be deducted monthly? The annual fee is not a donor class. Theresa suggested that we need fundraising target of \$1000, \$5000 (new), \$10,000, and \$25,000.

### **Strategic Planning Committee** (Dave Kitts)

Most focused on organizational systems. Now have recently established a Mailchimp account & tutorial on how to use is scheduled.

Draft website is progressing via Doug McKenney. A new & improved webhost has been established & populated with draft content. Our goal is to go-live with the new website by Oct. 21st Board Mtg. Actions needed: 1) photos of all Board members to be sent to Doug & Dave. 2) ensure well connected with Finance and Fundraising committees, as need these on-line changes to be established before go-live. 3) explore the best approach regarding growing volunteers & how the website might support that. 4) Initial invoice for these web services has been submitted by Doug (& Diana).

### **Old Business**

Audit Update: Tom Richey stated that this was in progress with the Finance Committee

Benches: Tabled until the next meeting

### **Meeting Dates**

October 21<sup>st</sup> 9am @ LMA Cottage

### **Adjourn 11:05**

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Richey, seconded by Tom Minnick and unanimously approved by all in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Miller, Mokoma Conservancy Secretary