

**MINUTES**  
**THUNDERBIRD PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**July 10, 2023**

The TPOA meeting was called to order by President Bette LoBue at approximately 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall and on Zoom. Kevin Haag led the flag salute.

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**

Susan Robinson read an announcement regarding a recording being made of the meeting to assist with record keeping and note taking.

**PRELUDE**

President LoBue offered deep condolences on the recent passing of Lake Santeetlah community member, Mrs. Janet Brickell, and former Santeetlah postal carrier Wilma Aiken.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Secretary Mary Roemer read the minutes from the general membership meeting held on June 12, 2023. There were no corrections, and the minutes were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Greg Connor reported that as of about an hour before the meeting on July 10, 2023, TPOA had \$8194.55 in its checking account, with \$5515 allocated for the Green Elephant fund. The remaining balance after the Green Elephant distribution will be \$2679.55, with a savings account balance is \$766.23. Greg reported that just before the meeting he received \$170 in additional funds, for two memberships payments of which \$130 was designated for the Green Elephant fund.

**AUDIT REPORT**

Kevin Haag reported that he and Michol Mullen had conducted an audit of the TPOA bank accounts, and the books were found to be in order. Kevin and Michol provided a written report to Greg for his record keeping.

**TOWN COUNCIL UPDATE**

Mayor Connie Gross reported that the town has applied for a Golden LEAF grant for addressing storm water runoff. She requested that community members provide photographs of standing water to the town so that they could be used in support of the grant application. A decision is expected in the application in August. She also reported that the Volunteer Firefighters and First Responders Annual Thank You is scheduled for August 12 in Manierre Park. The firefighters will be moving into a new building in August and Connie suggested that the community consider fundraising or assisting them in some way with furniture for the new building.

Mayor Gross reported she has identified a problem with feral cats in town, and described potential ways to address the issue. She also reported that the town of Robbinsville had a

successful Heritage Festival on July 3 and 4 and appreciated the assistance of Santeetlah volunteers.

Mayor Gross noted that she had requested Postmaster Debbie Beasley to speak at the meeting about issues with delivery. Postmaster Beasley appeared by Zoom. She first noted that she appreciated our remembrance of Wilma Aiken. Regarding recent delivery issues, she stated that much of the issue has to do with a high load of packages being delivered on behalf of Amazon. Postmaster Beasley said that due to the delivery workload, the Postal Service would be hiring another person for the town route. She requested that homeowners use the house numbers which were assigned by 911 when the emergency system renumbered homes. She also explained that congestion in the town and general traffic create many of the delivery issues, as well as the steepness of many driveways. She asked the community to consider cluster mailboxes as an alternative to the current system.

**TDA UPDATE:** Bill Piel reported that the Tourism Development Authority had a recent meeting at which the budget was set for next year. He reported that there will be upcoming advertising in the state magazine, but that in that the group has no income it was winding down.

President LoBue then deferred the committee reports until after the presentation by guest speaker Jared Schuster, who spoke and answered questions about fishing on Lake Santeetlah.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ADOPT -A-HIGHWAY**

Beth Carlton reported that there was a record turn-out for the June 13 trash pickup. Kevin Haag and a guest, Diana and Joe Simon, Larry Block, Bette LoBue and Beth participated. The group collected 8 bags of trash which Kevin took to the dumpster. The next trash pickup will be July 11 at 9:00 a.m. Beth also mentioned the need for two new trash grabbers, and a motion was passed for their purchase.

### **FOCUS/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Susan Robinson reported that the committee continued its review of the TPOA by-laws. The committee is seeking to update the by-laws in various ways, including, for example, by providing ways to collect ballots through on-line mechanisms as well as by mail. The committee is also planning and projecting expenses for an upgrade of its technical platforms, including a subscription to a Zoom account. It also is evaluating a website for members and expects to have a beta version available by the end of the summer. Finally, the committee is discussing the newsletter format and the creation of new features to keep members informed.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Frances Connor reported that the planning committee had a successful welcome back party on June 17. If anyone has suggestions for how to improve the welcome back party

please get in touch with the committee. Frances thanked committee members for their support and thanked all who helped with setup of the party.

Frances reported that last year's band, South 129, not available for this year's band event, and is considering a Nashville band, Looking at Men Without Memories. This event is bring your own blanket and bring your dancing shoes too. Finally, a welcome to Martha Lane who has joined the committee.

#### **WELCOME COMMITTEE**

Kevin Haag welcomed new members Lona and Bryan DiCerb.

#### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

President LoBue requested articles for the upcoming newsletter. Kevin suggested a new feature to highlight something historical from TPOA's past. The deadline for the newsletter is July 26.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

The postal delivery problems were discussed during Postmaster Beasley's presentation.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was raised.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 p.m.

The next association meeting is August 14, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary C. Roemer  
Secretary, TPOA