

Rainbow Lake Water Protection District
Board of Commissioners Meeting
August 28, 2023

The Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order by Chairman Roger Gorham at 8:58 a.m. at the Brighton Town Hall. In addition to Chairman Gorham, Commissioners present included Gary Leitsch, Gordon Sawyer, Peter Shrope and Peter Geertz. Also attending was Steven Samuels, a Rainbow Lake resident.

Board Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of the Commissioners on June 5, 2023 were unanimously approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Geertz reported that since June 5, 2023, one bill was paid to Blue Mountain Engineering for \$1,106.45, leaving a current balance of \$46,381.84. Treasurer Geertz also presented the proposed budget for 2023, calling for a tax levy of \$32,500, an increase of \$4,500 over the prior year due to increased dam maintenance costs and the estimated cost of anticipated tree removal. The budget was approved as presented (see attached).

Dam Control and Maintenance

Roger Gorham reported that the new water gauge was installed at Steven Smith's Rainbow Lake property and is being monitored by Steven Smith on a regular basis. He has not received any update from John Carr of Blue Mountain Engineering concerning the application of a temporary revocable permit from the DEC to remove several trees in close proximity to the dam. Roger Gorham will follow up with John Carr on this matter.

Succession Planning

Roger Gorham indicated his intent to resign effective August 31, 2023 as he sold his residence on Rainbow Lake and will no longer qualify for the position. He proposed that Steven Samuels join the Board as Commissioner effective September 1, 2023 for a four year term. Roger Gorham's resignation and Steven Samuels' appointment were unanimously accepted. Both Peter Geertz and Gordon Sawyer, whose terms expire in February, 2024, volunteered to stay on the Commission for an additional four year term. Roger Gorham will inform the Franklin County Clerk of these changes.

There was discussion concerning the limited number of eligible candidates to serve as future commissioners. It was noted that the law governing the District requires that commissioners be residents of the district, disqualifying property owners with lake rights only. It was also noted that eligible candidates need not be year-round residents as long as their Rainbow Lake property is designated as their legal primary residence. There was also continued discussion concerning the need for more effective staggering of board member terms. This may resolve itself should future resignations of commissioners come at times other than an expired term.

Other:

Peter Geertz nominated Gary Leitsch to fill in as acting Chair of the Commission following Roger Gorham's resignation until the next annual meeting in February, 2024. Gary Leitsch agreed to the nomination and was unanimously accepted with Roger Gorham abstaining.

The desirability of a warning sign for boaters and swimmers at the bridge by the dam was discussed. Peter Shrope agreed to contact the Franklin County Highway department to ask them if this could be mounted either on the bridge or its abutments.

The next meeting date will be held on February 12, 2024 at 9 a.m. at the Brighton Town Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Geertz, Secretary