

March 01, 2012

Minutes of Meeting of the Membership LAKE HARDING LEASEHOLDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

A meeting of the membership of Lake Harding Leaseholders Association, Inc. was held on Thursday, March 01, 2012, at 7:00 PM at the Georgia Power Company Land Office Warehouse.

President, Don Neal called the meeting to order.

Prior to the business meeting, Georgia Power's Land Department provided a great cookout for the membership. Mr. Neal expressed appreciation to the Land Department on behalf of the membership for providing a meeting location and the cookout for the group.

Keith Hill welcomed everyone and stated we had approximately 200 in attendance including local Georgia Power personnel and some from Atlanta.

Keith started the meeting by asking Arnold Lindsey, Manager of the Chattahoochee Hydro Group, to review some of the basic safety information. Arnold stated he always keeps a fire extinguisher in his truck, along with a First Aid Kit. He informed us if we were to have a fire start while in the GP Warehouse building tonight, we should dial 706-317-6026 for emergency assistance and exit through the main double front doors. He also noted that in the event of any bad weather, like tornados, he has keys to a Safe Room.

For home protection, Mr. Lindsey suggested we ask the Fire Department to send someone to our houses for a home inspection. We should always make sure we have current fire extinguishers easily available in our homes. As a family we should identify fire exits and place inexpensive plug in lights in hallways to aid in escape when it's dark.

Keith Hill introduced Robin Gibson, Sara Jenkins, Ricky Stearns, Bill Glisson, Mike Barnett, Kym Partridge, and Richard Willis of the Land Management team. He also introduced Joey Slaughter, Georgia Power's fisheries biologist and the Hydro Services group out of Atlanta; Fred Cox, Courtenay O'Mara, and Herbie Johnson.

He mentioned that Blanton Creek Park, on the Georgia side would be open on March 15 through Labor Day and encouraged everyone to visit. He also noted they had boxes of free tree seedlings available in boxes near the exit door. The fall draw down is tentatively scheduled for October 1 – November 16.

You may learn more by visiting their new website at: [GeorgiaPowerLakes.com/Bartlett's Ferry](http://GeorgiaPowerLakes.com/Bartlett'sFerry).

Keith introduced Richard McKinney representing the Antioch Volunteer Fire Department and Brent Bennett of the Beulah Fire Department.

He also introduced Lt. Mitt Fontaine with the Alabama Marine Patrol and Jeremy Bollen and Jim Bradfield from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Jeremy spoke up and stated he had received several questions about alligators. He confirmed that alligators have been seen on both sides of the lake. Mostly they are found in the northern areas of the lake, above Blanton Creek. If you see one that appears to be acting aggressive, you should call the DNR. The law prohibits anyone from feeding or harming alligators.

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual Membership meeting held March 10, 2011, had been distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes. It was seconded and approved.

Treasurer, Melanie Humphreys made available a financial report which showed a balance of \$ 7,982.01 as of December 31, 2011. She noted that 28 new memberships had brought in \$2,100.00 and Annual Membership Renewals of 258 people brought in another \$6,460.00. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded and approved.

Mr. Neal presented the nominees for Board Members commencing for the year 2012:

ALABAMA GEORGIA

Connie Stinson Mary Lynn Webb

Don Neal Melanie Humphreys

Janylle Koren Robert Archer

Jim Duncan Susan Tompkins

Joel Donovan Tommy McKenzie

Don Neal then presented the slate of officers to serve for 2012:

Melanie Humphreys, President

Susan Tompkins, Secretary

Mary Lynn Webb, Treasurer

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved that the slate of nominees proposed by the Board be accepted.

Melanie thanked Don for his services as president for the last two years. She then introduced Bill Morkes, owner of Morkes Land Surveying.

Mr. Morkes stated he had been in business since 1977. In light of the fact that so many Lee county residents with property on Lake Harding had recently been recipients of letters from their mortgage lenders stating they now required them to purchase flood insurance, he had just met with the Lee County Engineer. He had told Bill that when the maps had originally been made, Lee County did not have the funds to properly survey all the lake properties and had made a blanket decision to categorize these lots as being in a flood zone, even though most of them were not. However, if the property owner was willing to pay for a survey and topography map, the licensed surveyor could apply to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to have the property exempted from needing flood insurance. Bill stated he and his team use equipment with a Global Positioning System (GPS) in order to get the most accurate and detailed measurements to fulfill FEMA requirements. He has been very successful in working with FEMA and having leaseholders and land owners flood insurance requirements rescinded. Bill can be reached at 334-642-5320 or bill@morkessurvey.com.

Melanie then introduced Roger Martin, the Chattahoochee River Warden. Mr. Martin stated he and several others including Warren Church, Leslie Hatcher, Joel Donovan and Don Neal had volunteered to work on a committee to spearhead efforts against other groups who are currently trying to force Georgia Power to agree to lowering the Lake Harding water levels. He stated there would be two meetings on March 6th and another two on March 7th. All four meetings will cover the same issues and will be held at different locations to make it more convenient to afford the opportunity for more participants. He stressed the great importance of having as many attendees as possible. Georgia Power is not in a position to take a stand on this, but the Lake Harding Association can. The river warden is a non-profit organization and gets no federal funding. Roger stated there would be a letter writing campaign between July and October. Don Neal confirmed that the Lake Harding Association would be assisting with this and donating the

postage in an effort to encourage more support. Roger can be reached at 706-649-2326 or criverwarden@gmail.com.

Melanie thanked Bill and Roger for their time and participation. She then turned her attention to donations.

Richard Young raised his hand and spoke concerning our Treasurer's report. He noted our ending balance was much lower than in prior years and he felt we should be more conservative with our donation amounts this year. Melanie stated the board had already discussed the same thing at our last meeting and arrived at the same decision. With that being said, Melanie proposed the following donation amounts:

\$1,000 – Antioch Volunteer Fire Department
\$1,000 – Beulah Volunteer Fire Department
\$2,000 – Fireworks
\$500 – The Cross Committee
\$500 – Two Tree Island

Joel Slocumb, representing The Cross Committee, stood and thanked everyone for the donation that helps keep this historical landmark going.

Scott Pinckard, representing Two Tree Island, spoke and stated he was preparing to file a 5013C so that Two Tree Island could become a non-profit organization. He thanked us for the donation, and then declined the offer. He reminded everyone that services are held every Sunday from June – August.

Melanie noted the September date and location for the Annual BBQ would be announced at a later date.

Susan Tompkins stated she would begin working on a new membership directory in a few months and reminded everyone to send her any changes she should make. She also noted there would be more color ads available this year and you can start letting her know of any changes or interest in placing an ad.

Keith Hill stated that Georgia Power will be doing an annual clean-up in September and they would like to begin co-sponsoring clean-ups with the LHA.

Responding to a question about large floating logs and debris in the lake, Keith Hill noted that Georgia Power was not equipped for this type of cleaning. He stated they usually float on down toward the dam and get caught there. As needed, they will bring in a large crane to remove debris that has accumulated at the dam. Usually, in September, Georgia Power holds a "Renew Our Rivers/Rivers Alive" clean-up with employees from Plant Franklin, Chattahoochee Hydro, Georgia Power Environmental Affairs Department, and the Land Department. Georgia Power has also sponsored large debris clean-up efforts to remove large items from the lake, i.e., docks and sunken boats.

Tommy Wages asked Keith what was going to be done about all the downed trees caused by the tornado. Keith said many had already been cleaned up and asked if Tommy had some specific areas where the trees were still down. Tommy talked about some areas near his home. Keith said they could get together and see if the trees were on Georgia Power property. He reminded everyone they could do something about Georgia power leased lots. However, Georgia Power has no control over deeded lots or other types of leased lots.

A question was asked concerning why we can't get an early weather warning system for the lake. Keith Hill stated that there is one operated by Lee County on the Alabama side. Tommy McKenzie spoke up and stated Harris County does not have the funds necessary to purchase such

a system. However, he agreed to get with the AVFD Fire Chief, Richard McKinney, and they would check into them trying to get a good deal on home weather alarm systems.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the same was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Tompkins,