**Lake Samish Association Annual Membership Meeting**

**June 25, 2020**

**Attendance**

Board members: Derek Buse, Eric McHenry, Art & Val Baddorf, Sharon Cody, Micah Ping, Josh Bremmerer, Laurie Henley, Janet Monks, Kate Fadden, Bruce Brown.

Community members: about 30 people.

Historic first online LSA community meeting was called to order via Zoom at 7:02pm.

**Introductions/Updates**

Derek gave an introduction and expressed appreciation for living where we do during the pandemic.

Eric gave an introduction to the Board. To ensure a sense of community trust, a conflict of interest policy has been drafted and is close to approval. Litter pick-up was done individually this spring instead of being held as an event. Message from Board was sent to neighbors offering help during pandemic. Board’s objective is to follow bylaws, communicate with members, encourage people to be involved. Recommended checking out revamped LSA web site.

Josh gave a technology update. We now have an integrated web site, with option to renew membership online. Unfortunately, Lake Samish merchandise is not currently available due to the pandemic.

Micah gave a talk about communications. Since some members report not receiving emails, he recommended checking their spam folders. Newsletter was canceled this spring because most LSA events were canceled.

Kate talked about events, both continuing and new. Cookie decorating was held in December and was successful; hoping to increase attendance this year. Unused materials were donated to a local school. Ladies luncheon was held in December. Easter egg hunt was a new event that had to be cancelled. Harvest party, game night, motor buffs and other events have been put on hold and will depend on pandemic situation. Call to reach out to Kate or LSA email to offer feedback or volunteer.

Laurie spoke about issues. She gave an update on water district plans for bridge reconstruction. Project has been delayed and will not be happening till fall of next year.

**Speakers**

Rob Gillespie from Lutherwood spoke. He has been executive director since November. Fifteen trees came down during a winter storm and he got to know some LSA members (Eric and Micah) who came to help clean up. Gave history of Lutherwood, which is 105 acres with cabins, dining area, chapel, ropes course. They offer retreats for kids and adults, as well as a base for rowing clubs (including WWU). They normally offer a program for child burn victims, music camp and band camp, but summer programs for kids were canceled this year due to the pandemic. Lutherwood is a Red Cross site which could be used in emergency for lodging and kitchen facility. There is a 100,000 gallon water tank and 2 fire hydrants. They are hoping to rebuild a shelter on the mountain. Rob requested that people drive slow in the area.

Bengt Miller from Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group spoke on aquatic invasive weed control on Lake Samish. Lake Samish is part of Skagit watershed area that drains into the Samish River. SFEG is partially funded by fishing licenses and grants A volunteer program is in place to control weeds that impact salmon, mainly yellow flag iris, knotweed, and fragrant water lilies, with focus on the first two. Volunteers include SFEG, landowners and WA Conservation Corps. Plan is to remove seed heads from iris in August this year to prevent spread. The effort will be long-term and the more volunteers the better. Bengt will be available to provide volunteers with GPS trackers to map out where the invasive weeds are located. Contact Joan Ellsworth or Bengt to help. Laurel Baldwin of noxious weed control is also involved, representing Whatcom County.

**Election**

A vote on re-electing Derek Buse as President was planned, and there were no opponents. However, as the voting feature wasn’t working on Zoom, the vote was postponed till the fall community meeting. Derek will continue as president for now.

**Other business**

Jerry Johnson put out a request for a January 1982 Lake Samish cookbook. Wendy Wefer was able to provide one on the spot.

Joan Ellsworth announced that the Lake Samish history book is still available so people can contact her or LSA if interested.

Derek asked for member feedback and questions. First Zoom meeting was a success!

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.

Submitted by Valerie Baddorf, Secretary