**Topinabee Development Association**

Tenth Annual Meeting – Township Hall

June 23, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am, by Mary O’Hare, TDA President. Attendance was counted as 45+ persons. Time was taken to acknowledge Board of Directors and audience members that have had an impact on the township thru the year.

Dawn Bodnar, TDA Vice President, called for nominations and elections to Board of Directors. Both Paul Chapoton and Linda Neuss terms as Directors have expired. Paul would like to remain as a Director, if elected, however Linda will not be returning and her service on the board was greatly appreciated. Mary Jan Miller has placed her name as a nominee for Director in the election and no other members volunteered for the position. A vote was taken by the membership; Paul Chapoton and Mary Jan Miller were approved.

The minutes from the meeting of June 24, 2017 and this year’s agenda were both approved.

Treasurer Ken Hoehn read the 2017 Annual Treasurer’s report. Starting balance as of January 1 was $29,038.02. Income obtained from dues and contributions was $3440.41, less expenditures for supplies, community memberships, donations, and expenses of $8072.47, for a total net loss of $4632.06. This also included $5778.91 contribution to the Mullett Twp. Streetscape Plan. Closing balance as of December 31, 2017 was $24,405.96. The memorial for Dave Ogg was by direct donations and not part of TDA expenditures. The Treasurer’s Report was approved by vote from the membership.

President O’Hare continued the meeting by informing the membership about the Amazon Smile Program and how it can help benefit the TDA.

President O’Hare indicated that Mullett Township entities, such as local business, library, fire department, and the township board can make use of the [www.Topinabee.org](http://www.Topinabee.org) website for distribution of information and events. John Gross would welcome pictures and stories from the area for posting.

A special “thank you” goes to a local resident, Linda Miller, who assisted the township in designing and ordering of two new signs for Topinabee. You can see one at the library and the other will be located at the north end of the pavilion.

Rachel Osborn and Claudia Holland have been working together on sprucing up the north end of Topinabee Beach Park with shrubbery and a soon to be rain garden. They are working with Tip of the Mitt Watershed for possible grants to complete the plantings and rain garden at the south end of the park.

Other activities in which the TDA participated includes an ice cream social, contributing towards the entertainment during the 100th Anniversary of Mullett Township, and flowers for the post office flower boxes.

Dawn Bodnar, Vice President, introduced our speakers; Tony Naylor, MAPS President; Sue Allor, State Representative; Mary Jan Miller, Neighborhood Improvement & Community Enhancement (NICE) Chairman; Hobie Kirsch, Mullett Township Supervisor; and Rachel Osborn, Mullett Township Clerk.

Tony Naylor talked about the history of MAPS (Mullett Area Preservation Society) since its inception in 1985. They are working with various organizations to keep Mullett Lake clean and free from pollution and development intrusion. They help provide funding for the Cheboygan County Sherriff Department for safety patrol on the lake. They are also working with Sturgeon for Tomorrow on a long-term project in the release of fingerlings into the lake. Another project is the restoration of shoreline greenbelt to assist in the reduction of lake pollution.

Sue Allor was able to join us to discuss the passing of the state budget. One item is the increase in per student funding from $120 to $240 which is the largest increase in over 10 years. A new item is Marshall Plan for Talent which will help develop those children with talents for high career jobs such as, IT, manufacturing, and professional trade. Another issue has to do with able bodied individuals who receive Medicaid. They will now be required to work or go to school 80 hours a month in order to continue receiving benefits. Exemptions do exist for certain individuals. Also, on the forefront are PFAS contamination areas affecting local wells. Military and manufacturing sites are being identified and clean-up will need to take place. Another issue had to do with a “No Anchor Zone” in the area of Line 5. Currently there no laws on the books pertaining to such a zone. Bills are being introduced to put into law a No Anchor Zone to protect the area from further marine craft damage.

Mary Jan Miller explained the need for a local resolution concerning abandoned homes and/or vehicles, and areas where trash is laying about. In 2013 blight was the #1 issue concerning township residents, however no resolution was ever passed by the township board back then. Leaving areas with trash lying about poses a health issue by attracting rodents. Children are playing in abandoned homes where they could be hurt. She explained how cleaning up the areas not only improves how the community looks, but it increases home sales, increases property value, and improves our tax base. Members of NICE will also be visiting homeowner association meetings around the lake to garner support. There are form letters available for all homeowners to sign and present to the township board at their monthly meetings or they can be returned to NICE where they will be taken and presented to the township board at the September board meeting. Your support is essential.

Hobie Kirsch displayed the new, soon to be installed, Topinabee Beach Park sign. They have also installed the new Topinabee Library sign for all to see. There were a few comments pertaining to the lack of parking due to the popularity of the park. Plans are underway to work on the south end of the park where additional parking will be available. He also encouraged neighbors to clean-up their property and to give a neighbor a hand in doing the same. A new fire hall is in the future and a committee has been formed to begin that project. Topinabee Fire Department is also looking to obtain a water rescue vehicle. Currently Tuscarora or Cheboygan Fire Departments provide water rescue, but with emergencies time is very important, so it only makes sense that the fire department have some sort of water rescue vehicle. Hobie stressed for everyone to get involved! Come tell the board what is needed, where the problems are, and what we, as the board, can do about them.

Rachel Osborn indicated that the streetscape is continuing. However, we need to get with MDOT on a drainage situation. Hopefully, soon to be resolved. There will be an ADA walkway to the Topinabee Market. The township board has approved the rain garden at the north end of the park and another will be added, in the future, to the south end. Make sure to let the board know what you, as residents, want done in the community you live in. Send letters, emails, attend meetings, or even stop us on the corner.

The meeting was concluded at 11:30 am with President O’Hare thanking everyone for attending. Various door prizes and gift cards donated by local businesses were awarded. Please thank them for their generosity.

Remember – Even the smallest stone thrown by a child from a dock on Mullett Lake ripples the water on every shore. The fruits of your labor will ripple through countless families and for time unmeasured. -by Matt O’Hare

Respectfully submitted,

Claudia Holland

TDA Secretary