

# Town of Crystal Bay

## Annual Meeting

### Minutes

March 14th 2023

- I. Attendance: 29 residents, 2 non-residents, of those 4 participated via Zoom.
- II. Call To Order: Colby
  - A. Colby Abazs, Town Clerk, called the meeting to order in the Finland Community Center at 7:04pm with the pledge of allegiance.
- III. Selection of Moderator: Colby
  - A. David Geist was selected to moderate the 2023 Crystal Bay Township Annual Meeting by unanimous consent.
- IV. Reading of the 2022 Minutes
  - A. MOTION: to waive the reading of and place on file the minutes of the last Annual Meeting as copies had been supplied to those in attendance. Motioned by Michelle Duhant, Seconded by Carrie Bockevich, Passed by voice vote.
  - B. There was some question on the process of approving Annual Meeting Minutes. The Clerks' understanding is that they are posted following the meeting and folks should provide corrections and edits within 60 days to finalize the Annual Meeting Minutes.
  - C. There are some clerical confusions on the 2022 minutes that the Clerk will work with folks to correct.
- V. Reports
  - A. Treasurer's: Danielle
    - 1. Reports were shared in paper and digital form and the Treasurer gave an overview of what the information in the report means.
    - 2. MOTION: to accept the treasurer's report as shared in written form and explained. Motioned by Nancy Anselment Olson, Seconded by Andrew Deyette, Passed by voice vote.
  - B. Road and Bridge: Doug
    - 1. There was thanks shared to Doug for all his work keeping the roads in good condition during this challenging year.
    - 2. Gas prices have been high and the trucks have been run a lot to deal with the spring washout and heavy winter snows we have had this year. We got a new to us grader and now it is in the shop for significant repairs. There is a need for additional levy funds to keep up with the increasing costs.
  - C. Clerk's: Colby
    - 1. We have had success with including a Zoom option in all Town Board meetings and now the Annual Meeting.
    - 2. As a heads up in case anyone hasn't heard there will be a special election in the coming months to fill a vacancy in our County Commissioners district. The Clerk has confirmed that ballots will be mailed to every registered voter in Crystal Bay so please make sure

you are registered. Affidavits of Candidacy from folks interested in running for the position will be accepted May 17-31st 2023 by the County Auditor. Depending on the number of people running, the primary or election will be on August 8th and on September 22 the main election will happen if the earlier date is a primary.

D. Cemetery: Colby

1. The Cemetery had some dead and dying trees removed and is looking at other deferred maintenance and improvements for the coming years. There is also a need and interest in working with all our cemetery records and getting them digitized and updated. If anyone is interested in helping support this work please reach out. There have also been several burials and plot sales in the cemetery this year.

E. Community Center: Honor

1. Retirement Party for Nancy Anselment Olson on April 1st 1pm. Full report attached.
2. There was thanks given for Friends of Finland's great work.

F. Housing Project: Colby

1. The Town has a small grant from RSDP(Regional Sustainable Development Partnership) of UMN Extension. The Housing project is currently at the information gathering and community engagement stage with a hope that if the Town gets some of the grants it has applied for it can use those larger amounts of funds to start turning all the ideas into potential plans. Everyone is aware of the housing challenges we are facing as a community and this project hopes to hear everyone's ideas and find a way we can address those challenges and make sure any housing project is in the character of Finland MN and beneficial to us all. Currently the Town has contracted with Erik who is doing research, building networks, and applying for additional grants.

G. Supervisors: Paul, Karl, Russ

1. Switching back to in person voting is an ongoing discussion and was postponed due to the proximity to the 2022 election cycle.
2. We got two new bridges/culverts this year. Several roads were closed for a time due to spring washout.
3. We have missed the deadline to apply for FEMA support for the spring washout event. About \$57k dollars was spent from the Road and bridge fund for the related repairs.
4. There are ongoing Board conversations around Community Center grounds deferred maintenance and improvements including the ball field. There will likely be a need to hire a part time person to do the much needed work. Some of the work might be able to be supported by grant funding which would need to be applied for.

VI. New Business

A. Annual Donation Recommendations:

1. Silver Bay Library: Shannon

- a) There are 173 registered library users from Crystal Bay Township. In 2022, the library had 42 different take and make and stay and make programs that served 1167 people. We had 87 in-person programs that served 1450 people. And our big news is that we are working on a renovation and expansion of the library that will update the interior, add two small meeting rooms and one large

multi-purpose room (a total of 750 sq ft.) The project is slated to start this summer! The township's support helps keep the library services available to the community. Thanks for the support.

- b) MOTION: to continue the regular annual Township donation of \$2500 to the Silver Bay Library. Motioned by Karl Klinker, Seconded by Patti Paulson, Passed by voice vote.

2. North Shore Area Partners: Lise

- a) We are an aging community and so the need for these types of aging in place services. NSAP directly serves 400-500 people in a given year. Full report attached.

- b) MOTION: to continue the regular Township donation of \$5000 to North Shore Area Partners. Motioned by Patti Paulson, Seconded by Nancy, Passed by voice vote.

3. Finland Historical Society: Kaare

- a) We try to engage with the community throughout the year and you should come check out our site once the snow melts.

- b) MOTION: to continue the regular annual Township donation of \$2000 to the Finland Historical Society. Motioned by Karl Klinker, Seconded by Michelle Duhant, Passed by voice vote.

4. Lake County Rescue: Carrie & BJ

- a) Membership particularly of Finland area folks has been dwindling and there is a real need for continued support and more members from the Crystal Bay area. The rescue squad is all volunteers and assist on emergencies where the ambulance can't drive to and also provide search and rescue services in collaboration with the County Sheriff's department.

- b) MOTION: to increase the regular annual Township donation to \$2500 for the Lake County Rescue. Motioned by Randy Josophson, Seconded by Honor Schauland, Passed by voice vote.

5. Nature Childcare: Ellie

- a) We now have child care in Finland! Finland Community Nature Childcare opened back in February 2022. The facility is in the old forestry building owned by Lake County. There has been lots of development and growth in this first year of operation. Have served 13 families. The loan received from Crystal Bay Township has been a great help in early cash flow. There are many other grants and donations that have helped support the startup costs in addition to the fees charged to families. Efforts like this loose money until there is stable enrollment and so support during these startup years is particularly helpful. Capacity is filling up for the summer.

- b) MOTION: to start a regular annual Township donation of \$1000 to the Finland Community Nature Childcare. Motioned by Lori Walewski, Seconded by Honor Schauland, Passed by voice vote.

B. Set Tax Levy - Board Recommendation: Danielle

1. The Treasurer walked through the Board recommendation in the context of past years. There is a clerical error in the Treasurer's report and the \$70,000 Road and Bridge fund amount in the agenda is the correct amount.
2. MOTION: to approve the 2024 Town levy as outlined below. This includes an increase in the #201 Road & Bridge \$60,000 to \$70,000, #401 Capital Buildings \$5,000 to \$10,000, and #406 Capital Equipment \$5,000 to \$25,000.
3. #100 General Fund \$35,000
4. #110 Town Hall Building \$25,000
5. #120 Community Projects \$5,000
6. #201 Road & Bridge \$70,000
7. #225 Emergency Services \$22,500
8. #226 Cemetery \$2,000
9. #401 Capital Buildings \$10,000
10. #406 Capital Equipment \$25,000
11. **Total Levy \$194,500**
12. Motioned by Roger Peterson, Seconded by Mike Nikula, Passed by voice vote.

VII. Other Business:

- A. Co-op Light and Power: Roger Peterson(District 5
- B. Roger encouraged folks to attend the Co-op Light and Power annual meeting April 19th. There is a meal and games for the kids. Hoping to work with Friends of Finland to maybe get a bus to shuttle people down to the event since the Two Harbors area has historically been overrepresented.
- C. Finland Fire: Carrie
  1. Currently there are 16 members. 19 calls that the department responded too. Usually landing zones and fires. 6-8 of the calls were in Crystal Bay Township.

VIII. Adjourn:

- A. MOTION: to adjourn at 8:38pm. Motioned by David Abazs, Seconded by Mike Nikula, Passed by voice vote.

# **2022 Friends of Finland Year End Report**

## **Submitted March 2023**

### **Friends of Finland Board – 2023**

Chair – Kathy Chumley

Vice Chair – Kurt Mead

Secretary – Danielle Hefferan

At Large – Randy Duke

At Large - Terry Miller

At Large - Shelby Roback

**Director/Program Lead** - Honor Schauland

**Operations Lead** - Nancy Anselment-Olson retiring March 18th, Kyle Flack hired

**Communications Lead** - Kaare Melby

**Finance Lead** - Lucy Carlson in 2022, currently hiring for this position

We also have 15 other staff people: 10 Youth Program, 4 Food Chain, 1 Cleaning person - all are part-time.

## **Summary of 2022**

1. We served over 14,000 people with activities at the Center in 2022.
2. We brought in \$232,600 in grants from private foundations in 2022 for programs and specific projects. This is how we pay most of our staff people as well.
3. Supported community events, such as the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, St Urho's Celebration, Spring Runoff Variety Show, Whitetails Unlimited Banquet, Finland Fireman's Softball Tournament, Town Annual Meeting, Harvest Booya, the Finland Co-op Annual Meeting, FMHS Pikka Joulu and other classes and community events.
4. Hosted many successful community activities and programs, including Youth Night, Bonebuilders, Monthly Community Potlucks, Monday evening AA, Tuesday evening basketball, summer softball and tennis, Monday and Wednesday yoga, meditation, pickleball, and Tuesday crafts.
5. Hosted people who use the internet regularly and/or use the public computer. We have a Zoom account that is used not only by our staff, but also by multiple other community groups for meetings. We have also trained a number of community groups on the teleconferencing equipment, and we are available to do training on Google Documents, Slack and Zoom for any group that needs it.

6. Provided services and information for all types of trail users, especially hikers, ATVers, and snowmobilers. We also monitor the RV Dump as a service for campers in the area.
7. Continued work to develop the economic potential of our commercial kitchen facility as a food business incubator and our Center overall as a business incubator and resource. Our kitchen is currently available for a small business kitchen renter. We also provide resources and assistance to developing businesses.
8. Our Youth Program is growing again. In 2022, we received funding from North Shore Collaborative, Northland Foundation, Cliffs Foundation and Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation as well as private donations. Participation continues to grow, and activities continue to evolve. The Youth Program served over 100 kids in 2022, with an average of 25-30 participants each week at Youth Night.
9. Camp Finland, our summer camp, was a success – 34 total participants. We are hoping to offer it again in 2023 - we are currently hiring coordinators.
10. Hosted a very successful 3 day training in December on collaborative leadership. The training was attended by 33 people total - 17 were Friends of Finland staff and volunteers, 6 were other Finland Community folks, 10 were from outside the area.
11. Our grant funded food systems project, the Finland Food Chain, had a number of successes. The Finland Wild Rice House was able to process over 13,000 lbs of rice and had a very successful mentorship season, with 7 ricing mentors and 19 ricing and processing mentees. The Finland Farmers Market had record attendance and a growing number of vendors, and is consistently offering monthly winter markets this year.
12. We completed installation of a Timber frame shed by tennis court for better storage of outdoor recreation equipment.
13. We continue to strengthen our collaborative structure and practices, broadening our organization's capacity to meet community needs.

### **Upcoming Projects in 2023**

1. Install wood-fired oven in the new timber frame.
2. Support the Township and County in their efforts to begin to address access to housing for residents in our community.

### **Current Goals**

1. To continue the current work on the structure of the Friends of the Finland organization to better accommodate all of the work that we do together, and that we plan to do in the future.
2. to continue to work with community groups to create programming and activities in the Community Center facility, including but not limited to job creation, community education, small business support, community health clinics, veterinary clinics, support for seniors, youth activities, community events, etc.
3. to continue to furnish the Center with furniture and equipment that will allow for the most community use and activities of the building.

4. to continue to draw and create social and civic activities such as meetings, dinners, dances and community events to the Center.
5. to continue to work with Crystal Bay Township to oversee mowing and upkeep of the Clair Nelson Center site, ball field and community triangle
6. to continue to support community events like the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon, St Urho's Celebration, Booya Fest, among others.

We appreciate your continued support for community activities in the Finland area!

Thanks,

Honor Schauand

Director, Friends of the Finland Community