

**SALEM COUNTRY CLUB
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2014**

The Annual Membership Meeting for the Salem Country Club was held in the clubhouse on Monday, November 10, 2014 @ 6:30 PM. Board members in attendance were Jeff Stockman, Shelly Thomas, Matt Joing, Nick Rohm, Brenda Blaine, John Snyder, Mike Sinkovich, Mike Riesen, and Jen Sarginger.

The meeting was called to order by the club President, Jeff Stockman

The membership attendance included: Ed Toot, Alan Cope, Al Hofmann, Candice Jones, Melissa Costa, Sheila Lobdell, Laurie Penix, Mary Davis, Tim Jones and Sara Baer.

Copies of the November 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes were reviewed by the membership. Al Hofman made a motion to accept the minutes and seconded by Melissa Costa. The minutes passed.

Copies of the September 2013 financial report were reviewed by the membership. Ed Toot made a motion to accept the financial report. Tim Jones seconded. The report passed.

Financial overview –

- Shelly looked into other accounting firms to do our end of the year taxes. The firms that she spoke with will be at the same cost as Byler, Wolfe, Lutsch and Kampfer, CPAs. The decision was made to negotiate with them to lower their price and it came down to Shelly doing a few more things to lower the cost. Also without Laurie coming to the annual meeting and going over what Shelly went over has saved us \$205.00. We discussed this at the last annual meeting.
- Membership dues were flat for the year and retention of current membership is a top priority for the board as with past years.
- We are still separating line items to keep track of expenses and budget
- The concession stand made \$777 for the year and we budget to break even. Any overages are put back into the concession stand for equipment and wages.
- The welcome center will be a self sustaining department in the future using party guest fees and guest fees for expenses along with shirts, worms, etc. which was up 80% from last year.
- Weather was not in our favor but the club netted \$8036 for the year after removing depreciation. After expenses we were profitable by around \$2000.

Committee Reports:

Head of Lakes, Swims and Grounds:

Completed projects in 2014:

Fishing Lake – New Dock on north end of fishing lake, Purchased 4 new jon boats, Cleaned main aerator.

Swimming Lake – New slide at kiddie beach, Replaced rungs on 2nd Jacob's ladder with durable plastic material, Replaced rope with buoys separating shallow and deep areas of the swimming lake, Improved winterization of fountain pump and lines.

Grounds – Improved landscaping near entrance/welcome center with rock wall, fence, and grass picnic area, Improved night lighting around club, Replaced most hand-painted signs, Widened nature trail to allow for fall fest tractor rides, Replaced all boards on deck next to bath house, Updated bath house with glass block windows with fans, replaced women's restroom ceiling, painted walls, put new electrical outlets and lights in, replaced some plumbing lines after a frozen pipe burst, New windows in Lifeguard room, New hot water tank in snack shack, Continued to clear area behind snack shack for more picnicking space, Removed numerous stumps, Cleaned diesel fuel tank, New tools for caretaker – air compressor in garage, large chainsaw, Replaced old electrical box.

Future Projects for 2015:

Fishing Lake – Fishing dock upgrades – benches, fishing pole holders, railing for dock closest to club entrance, Clear island for better shoreline access for fishing, Repairs at main boat dock area – possibly new configuration, New storage bin for life jackets, Finish dam at overflow with removable gate.

Swimming Lake – Reduce/eliminate algae in swimming lake, Start filling lake with fresh well water earlier in the season, Investigate other options for filtering lake/controlling algae (cost estimates), Different chlorine delivery system, Replace final 2 wood-runged Jacob's ladder with durable plastic rungs.

Grounds – Grass the baseball infield (not being used enough to maintain dirt infield), Install new flag on main flag pole (need large lift), Convert one tennis court to a basketball court, Change shuffleboard court to 1 horseshoe court and 1 bocce court, New fridge and hot water tank for clubhouse, Update women's restroom in clubhouse, Move a few grills and make new inserts, Add more lockers at bathhouse, Move volleyball court up by new fishing dock, Create skating rink at current volleyball court – need to dig out one foot, benches next to skating rink area, 2 new garage doors for maintenance building, Retaining wall to keep beach sand from moving towards lake house, Brick paver entrance to lake house, Box in wooden play set and fill area with wood chips or sand, New door and screen door in snack shack.

Possible Projects for 2015 or beyond:

Pavilion between snack shack and new fishing dock – voting on, Fishing dock on island, Stock fishing lake, More parking lot sealing, Replace deck boards at snack shack, Expand snack shack deck, Expand parking, Repair entrance bridge, Additional water attractions in swimming lake.

Member Response to Lake Swims and Grounds: Mrs. Costa talked about her and some volunteers that are planning on reconstructing the old fire place outside. There will be no cost to the club, everything is being donated.

Mr. Hofmann would like to see more grills around the club. Jeff informed him that the board had already decided to move a few grills around that are too far away from main picnic areas and also to make new inserts.

Mr. Hofmann is concerned that people are using the picnic tables by the bath house as an all day picnic area and dumping ground for all their stuff instead of a place to just have a quick snack and move on.

Mr. Toot asked what amp service we have. Jeff answered, 220 to the clubhouse, caretaker's house, and garage, and 110 to the welcome center.

The subject of the swimming lake water was discussed at length. Mr. Cope talked about how bad it was several years ago, and how they were able to clear it up during the swimming season. Mr. Hofmann gave some information on how they did it to help for next season. Jeff is going to start filling the lake with fresh well water earlier in the season. Also Jeff and Matt will be looking into other options for filtering the water and maybe other algaecides.

Head of lifeguards: Brenda Blaine reported on a successful year of guards. She had seven returning guards and ten new guards were hired for the season. She did have to bribe some of the old guards with a raise to get them to return. The Jr. Lifeguard program went very well as usual. We had scheduled 2 midnight swims this year, but due to weather the 1st one was cancelled but the 2nd went very well. Brenda was under budget this year by \$1524.17.

Head of Snack Shack: Nick Rohm had another successful year. He was able to make a profit of \$777.00 this year even though there were 10 days in August he was not able to open due to weather. There were all new employees in the snack shack this year except for 3. Nick will be looking into an icy machine for next season.

Mr. Toot would like to see better communication between the lifeguards and the snack shack workers next year. The lifeguards are supposed to tell the snack shack workers when they are leaving so they know to go home. This was not happening this year. Jeff and Brenda both said it will be fixed next year.

Head of Public Relations:

- We started the year with the 50/50 rake in the savings drive and ended it in the spring with the spring into Savings Campaign. These two ways to recruit new members by our own members hands down is our best way of getting new members. This program, let's a member sponsor a member and receive \$50.00 off their dues as well as the new member once they are paid in full.

- Our ways to communicate to the members have changed over the past several years, and we will continue to try to improve on keeping the membership informed on the

events and things going on with your club. These are several ways we will improve in the next year to help with communication to the membership.

- 1) We will continue to update the Facebook Fan Page daily or at least every other day with upcoming events and things to look forward to. Also post pictures after each event for everyone to check out.
- 2) The Secretary will continue to update the bulletin boards each month with upcoming events, future things that may be going on and other useful information and contact information for the board for concerns and suggestions
- 3) The Secretary will post all board minutes to the website, post future events, update the countdown to the next event, and keep the website current each week.
- 4) The calendar of events will be completed in January for the year, so people can plan, and be mailed with the statements as we have in the past.
- 5) Statements will be mailed out in March (early spring) and stickers will be mailed out around the first of May.

This is the first year that we had a net loss of membership, in 3 years. The board will strive to make this club a special place to bring your family and friends to enjoy all year long. Our focus will be to retain members and make sure people make happy memories for years to come.

Treasurer: Treasurer

- Statements are mailed out in the normal time frame as in years past, one in the Fall and one in the Spring.
- Sticker policy, we did try a new system of mailing stickers as members paid in full, unfortunately this caused more work for Shelly and we did have many people misplace or lose their stickers so we will be returning to the old way of sending the stickers all at the same time in the beginning of May. This also gives members the chance to finish paying dues with tax return money.
- Only a few people take advantage of the payment plan, 15 last year and a couple so far this year. It is still a nice program for people to pay a little at a time.
- Lockers – We are not offering free lockers this year, but still kept the prices at the same levels as all other years.
- We started to accept Visa and MasterCard last year and we had 3 members take advantage last year and one so far this year
- Any overpayments greater than \$15.00 will be put towards next year's dues, and anything less as with past years is a convenience fee. This happens most with payment plans.

Membership Activities: Monthly activities are planned by a different board member every month. A yearly calendar of events is sent to each member at the beginning of the year. Also events are e-mailed to membership and Facebook is updated as a reminder of what is upcoming. This year we tried a Halloween Dance/Haunted trail for 5th – 12th grade. It was a huge success and will be done again next year. This year's opening day theme will be a Regatta. Kids will be able to participate in building a boat out of cardboard to be sailed across the lake. The details/rules and advertising for this will be coming early so the kids can start work on their boats in the winter months.

Head of Groups and Reservations: Our reservations were up this year and everything went very smoothly. Guest fees and reservation fees were also up this year by \$1834.00. Jen went over the difference between renting in season and out of season. For in season rentals there is a \$25.00 non-refundable reservation fee plus all your guest fees. For out of season rentals there is a \$25.00 non-refundable reservation fee plus a flat rate of \$75.00 for guests. There will be a new hot water tank and fridge for next season, along with an update to the women's bathroom in the clubhouse. We were able to donate the clubhouse to the Jr. Mother's Club, a senior book club and the Salem Jr. Football program as a special thanks to the community. Jen will be working on changing a few things on the Group Registration Application form to make things run a little bit smoother.

Patrol Services: Mike Sinkovich had a total of 7 guards this season. We opened the welcome center the weekend before opening day for people to pick up their stickers, lockers and to make payments. Everything went very well. Rudy was put as head guard to help keep things running smoothly and also helped with scheduling. The guards were very pleased with the members obeying the stopping at the welcome center when coming in and also people not speeding. Worm sales were up by 80%. Mike was under budget by \$329.37. We will be looking into adding long sleeve t-shirts next season. The lockers will be handled differently next year. The lockers will already be numbered and people will just be given a number. Shelly will be putting a card in with your stickers if you have purchased your locker already with your number on it. Mike gave thanks to Shawn for helping close things up at the end of the day.

Tim Jones suggested having some fishing poles at the welcome center for people to rent. The board all thought it was a good idea.

Mr. Toot thanked the board for getting all the guards their own key to the welcome center.

Mr. Hufmann is concerned about people not paying for their guest. Mike feels the guards are doing a good job asking the questions and pushing as much as they can without offending anyone.

Legal: We did have one child fall off the large red slide at the playground. The child is fine and no further action was needed.

Fundraising:

- We rid the beach of the broken kiddie slides and play sets that were stained, broken and an eyesore on the new kiddie beach. We replaced them with a donation from Mr. Alan Cope of a new heavy duty kiddie slide and will continue to add things that enhance the experience of our younger guests, for safe fun play.
- We held the 2nd Annual Run/Walk for charity event in the Spring, this year we chose to support Breast cancer awareness and were able to raise over \$1300.00 to give to the cause. This is becoming an annual event sponsored by local businesses, a registration fee, and the community. It has gotten bigger each year with more and more people participating in the event and all proceeds going to a charity.
- For the second year in a row we have sponsored a little league baseball team and this year they went to the championship. These teams are always coached by a member and are strong support for our town and the kids.
- A new Dock was donated to the club by the overflow and the snack shack area by Butech. This dock is a nice addition to the lake and can be used for fishing and feeding or looking at the carp that swim along by the overflow
- Any of the snow cone sales, 50/50 sales, and anything sold at the tables during the events typically off set the expense of the event and are run by members of the board.
- The Perry Twp. Fire department donated the materials, labor and time this summer to install a new dry hydrant by the welcome center. This replaces the cracked and broken one that existed there for years. It will serve as a way to combat fires on the lane or here at the club.

Tim Jones wanted to know how to submit ideas for Fundraisers, Jeff answered to just email him.

Old Business:

- Old Business was discussed in the above.

New Business:

- The first topic to vote on is the budget for next year. There were a couple questions before we voted. First, Mrs. Costa wanted to know why there was a \$0 balance for the fishing lake expense, Jeff said it was because there were no plans to restock the lake this year and that nothing needed done to the boats. Second, Mr. Davis would like to see something in the budget for some new playground equipment, maybe from the Capital improvement savings. Gary Davis made a motion to accept the budget and Melissa Costa seconded. The motion passed.
- The second topic to vote on was the new pavilion. It will be a 16 x 20ft. pavilion at the cost of \$4800.00. The pavilion will be located next to the snack shack and can hold 6 picnic tables. This passed unanimously.
- Another thing that the board would like to do is to put a fence up between the Hunt Club and the Country Club. Just a barrier so kids don't wander over that direction. Jeff will be talking with someone at the Hunt Club about this.

Election of Officers: Persons seeking election are;

2nd term: Shelly Thomas

2nd term: Mike Sinkovich

3rd term: Jeff Stockman

1st term: Candice Jones

Shelly Thomas, Mike Sinkovich and Jeff Stockman were voted in for a three year term.

John Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting Nick Rohm seconded. The motion passed.

After the meeting, Shelly Thomas made a motion to vote Jeff Stockman as President, Brenda Blaine seconded. The motion passed. We did a blind vote for Vice President, Nick Rohm was elected. Jeff Stockman made a motion to keep Jen Sarginger as Secretary, Mike Riesen seconded. The motion passed. Matt Joing made a motion to keep Shelly Thomas as Treasurer, Nick Rohm seconded. The motion passed. The heads of committees are Brenda Blaine heading of lifeguards, Nick Rohm heading the snack shack, Jen Sarginger heading groups, Mike Sinkovich heading patrol services, and Matt Joing and Mike Riesen heading Lake Swims and Grounds.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Sarginger
Secretary