



## **Friends of Wabeno**

### **9/10/15 Meeting Minutes**

Mary Beck called the meeting to order at 7:04p

9 people in attendance

**Minutes** were handed out. Motion by Kathy McHugh, second by Sue Bessert to accept the minutes, all in favor.

**Treasury report** by Darlene Edlebeck. Money from the Arts Board has not come through but when everything is in we will profit approximately \$3,000 from the Wabeno Arts and Music Festival. Mary has received confirmation that the grant money is coming. Approximate cost amounts for musicians were \$4525, sound \$600, stands made \$1700. Advertising went over budget at \$927. We did sell the WAM banner, we purchased two tents and gave Willard Ehlinger \$25 for the use of his large tent. Motion to accept budget by Kathy McHugh, second by Donna Ver Voort, all in favor.

As for next year, Tim and Connie will work with the musicians and artists but we will be the administrators of the festival so we know who is coming, when they are coming, and how much they are being paid.

There were 77 evaluations filled out and on a 5 point scale with 5 the highest, we averaged 4.4. There were people that heard about the festival on a website and also Connect Communities website.

**Phase II** We have a retaining wall built with erosion control now inserted. We also have seating provided (fat butt seating that is) We have been working alongside the authorities from the county and state to accommodate what they require. We used a mesh net for the erosion control. We inserted a ten inch log to collect whatever will erode into the river. We have 140' of wetlands the DNR stated and they are deciding if we are to pull the walking trail out, build a boardwalk or do nothing. The bridge over the water, Wendy will work with four inches instead of the five she wanted in the beginning which is a plus for us.

Our grant from Lowe's for \$27,000 did not come through. Another idea is using Amazon Smile and earn one half percent for purchases. Mary will research this program.

2016 planning: Americorps/ RV/campground.

National Endowment of the Arts we did not receive the grant. The grant had 270+ with 21-22 receiving the grant. The Potawatomi grant writer came forward and asked if town wanted to join together. Potawatomi want betterment in Stone Lake. There was a meeting with the Park Board and Firefighters Board with many things positive. The grant has a September 21 deadline. We had a low score for the

grant but high marks for the concept and do ability, the diverse partnerships but the art was unchallenging. We also were deducted points because it wasn't apparent that town officials and the community supported this public art. So we will look into the town comprehensive plan and possibly have it amended to show the town's support.

Mary will work with the WI Arts contact Karen Goeskze and work on their public arts grant and help with the money for planning. Sue Bessert thought about a summary of visitors for the museum and library to add into the comprehensive plan. As with this Mary would like to talk with the Park and Library boards. Also, when the steam hauler leaves Wabeno it is an opportunity to advertise our town plus handing out brochures or passports would be a good advertising.

**Community Pride** Kathy McHugh reported we had Steam Up, Kentuck Day and WAM. Fall Festival is the Chamber's event on September 26 and Kathy will get an application for \$15 to set up to sell hot dogs and hamburgers. Fall Festival is to have crafts, antiques and a band on the bandshell hosted by the Duel Sport Riders.

Fall and winter decorations. Kathy received a quote from "Flowers Galore" for tricolor 10" mums - \$15 to fill the planter and will be hearty mums that can be replanted year after year -or an 8" mum for \$9. "Flowers from the Heart" stated they have 10" hearty mums for \$19.95. 12" hearty and grasses \$38 or 12" hearty without grasses \$30. Darlene will talk with Bruce about the price and see if they can negotiate. Kathy has 24 fake pumpkins that may also be used.

The fall decorating will be done at 9:00 a.m. on September 24. The decorations will be in place for the Chamber's Fall Festival. An idea came forward to even decorate the concrete retaining wall across from Krist Gas Station.

Country Market – Joan Schertz has volunteered to let us use one acre of her land for a community garden. It would have to be weeded, planted and harvested. Joan's son is willing to build raised gardens for this purpose. But volunteers are needed.

**Ambassador Project** reported by Sue Bessert. Recognize new businesses. To get publicity on it with photo, media and article caption. The Wabeno Chamber, Friends of Wabeno, Town of Wabeno and the FCPED will launch this together. (Emy's, Cassidy's and Bait Shop) Businesses that have new ownership, expanded, remodeled, milestone anniversary or breaking ground but not limited to. Ambassadors would be chamber members, officials and citizens. Josh will provide the ribbons and will help with plants or whatever else may be considered and may pay for some of it. There will be no cost to the new businesses and will receive a goodwill gift. Each partnering group will submit money each year to cover the ribbons, plants, etc. Mary will also put on the website.

**Grocery Store** Mary reported that Josh has been working hard on it and he has ideas coming together. Laona is opening a Butcher Shop owned by Bill Stanley.

Next meeting October 8

Motion by Kathy McHugh, second by Sue Bessert to adjourn at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted by

Lynn LaRock