

Wabana Warbler

A newsletter for residents of Wabana Township

Fall 2019, Vol. 23, Issue 2



News from the Town Board

Along with conducting the regular monthly business, the Town Board has been working on the following:

- A Public Hearing was held on June 5th for residents to speak on any concerns regarding amending Ordinance 101. At the regular meeting following the Public Hearing, the Board adopted an amendment to the ordinance to reduce the side setback from 30' to 15' and to remove the no variance clause.
- At the regular July meeting the Board authorized a citizen Advisory Committee to examine issues related to Ordinance 101. (See story on next page.) So far in 2019, the Township has issued 14 permits.
- Lease Landscaping completed the preparation work for landscaping around the Town Hall. Planting will commence in the spring of 2020.
- The Board heard from residents of Lydia Lane who inquired about the procedures for establishing a township road.
- At the request of a resident, the Board has undertaken an investigation of the science and best practices regarding dust control and the impact of various products on vegetation and water. To date we've talked with staff at Itasca Soil & Water, The University of Minnesota's Extension Services and Center for Transportation Studies, MnDOT's Research Division, and the Minnesota Local Road Research Board. If you have thoughts to share about this issue, contact Loree Miltich (Lmiltich@aol.com or 327-1492).
- For Memorial Day, the township places American flags on the graves of veterans interred in Wabana Cemetery. Clerk Fordham (ruthwabanaclerk@yahoo.com or 218-259-0228) asks that residents let her know of any veteran buried in our cemetery so that we can make sure all are honored with a flag.



2019 Deer Hunter's Supper

Everyone is invited to the Wabana Community Fund's annual Hunter's Supper which will be held on Saturday, November 9th from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. The menu is pork loin, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans, coleslaw, cranberries, applesauce, rolls, and a small dessert. The cost is \$10 with children ten years and younger free. Proceeds from the event support scholarships, funeral luncheons, and the annual ice cream social.

There will be a silent auction and raffle. This year's raffle prizes include class 5 gravel from Schwartz Excavating, a \$200 gift certificate from S and S Meats, and a print from the Deer Hunter's Association. Raffle tickets are available to purchase in advance at Outpost 38, God's Country, and Petrich's or can be purchased the night of the event at the door.

Putting on the Hunter's Supper takes a lot of dedication and hard work! Those attending a recent planning meeting include: Jean Panchyshyn, Jean Nordberg, Anne Johnson, Kim Oja, Jean Koewler, Chris Bjerke, Deb Kee, Janeen Gueltzow, Michelle Cone, Gail Olijnek, Carol Speedling, and Cindy Bender. To make the event a success, help is needed to set up the hall on Friday, November 8th, prepare the food on Saturday, November 9th, serve and clean up, and donate bake sale, raffle, and silent auction items. For more information or to volunteer, contact Jean Koewler (326-4302 or djkoewler@paulbunyan.net).

Township Officers & Staff: Lloyd Adams, chair (999-9749 or cell: 259-1987, lradsams_94@msn.com), Steve Bjerke, supervisor (507-327-5230, bjerkehome@hotmail.com), Loree Miltich, supervisor and newsletter editor (327-1492, Lmiltich@aol.com), Ruth Fordham, clerk (218-259-0228, ruthwabanaclerk@yahoo.com), Deb Kee, treasurer (326-2115, dk317322115@gmail.com), Bob Moore, warming house and rink (326-2432), Scott Widmark, maintenance (259-5970). Check out Wabana Township's web site at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wabanatownship/>



Ordinance 101 Update

By Steve Melin

A group of volunteers has come together to form the Wabana Township Advisory Committee to help define, update, and recommend revisions to Wabana Township's Zoning Ordinance. This committee was authorized by the Wabana Township Supervisors at the July monthly meeting. The group's members are: Deb Kee, Wayne Speedling, Bob Moore, Gary Oja (Secretary), Jim Corrigan, Jim Olijnek, Steve Melin (Chairperson), and Steve Bjerke (Township Supervisor).

The group meets a couple times a month and we have defined the following goals:

- Review and assess Wabana Township Ordinance 101 and make recommendations to the Wabana Township Board in regard to that assessment.
- Develop shoreland overlay rules and regulations that would best work with the mission of protecting the water quality both from a recreational and economic standpoint for all Wabana Township lakes.
- To develop and strengthen Wabana Township's working relationship with the Itasca County Board of Commissioners and Environmental Services Department, the DNR, and Itasca County Soil and Water.
- To formalize a relationship with the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA).
- Develop a long-term comprehensive Land Use Plan. This plan would address and identify a multitude of local zoning concerns including water surface zoning within the Township moving forward.

The Committee welcomes Wabana residents' ideas. For more information, contact either Steve Melin at steven.melin@juno.com or Gary Oja at gdoja@msn.com.



Wabana Township Road Cleanup

By Steve Melin

The semi-annual roadside cleanup was held September 25, 2019. It was a beautiful sunny morning and many volunteered to help. Many bags of trash were collected along the township roadsides. One volunteer found a checkbook in the ditch and was able to return it to a thankful resident. The filled trash bags were taken to the landfill by the County who also provided the reflective vests and trash bags.

Thanks for time and effort goes to Louie & Janeen Gueltzow, Jean Panchyshyn, Steve Melin, Denny & Jean Koewler, Jim & Gail Olijnek, Barbara & Ken Zimmer, Jeanine Puls & Ron Roalstad, and Chris Bjerke.

The 2020 Spring Road Clean-up is scheduled for May 6, 2020. Meet at the Township Hall 9:00 a.m.

Loon Count and Fish Survey

The recent newsletter from WCOLA stated that, “The 2019 Loon Count on Wabana Chain of Lakes was held on July 18th. There were 35 adult loons and one chick counted on the Lakes...This was the lowest count in 16 years.” The DNR had a fish survey project on Lake Wabana this summer. The full results can be found here:

<https://wcola.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Wabana-Fishing-draft.pdf> For more information about WCOLA and their activities see the Wabana Chain of Lakes Facebook page at:

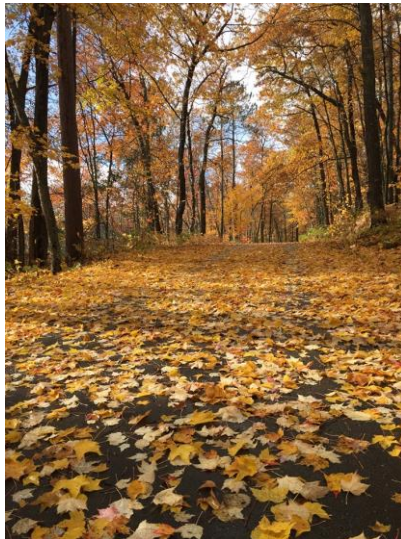
<https://www.facebook.com/wcola.org/> or visit their web site at: www.wcola.org .



In Memoriam



Longtime Wabana resident, Sherry Miner, passed away on October 6, 2019. Sherry grew up in a home that was built on the site of the old Wabana Hotel, attended Clearwater School, and retired to run Wa Ga Tha Ka Resort on Wabana Lake. Sherry was awarded the 2017 Wabana Citizen of the Year for her many contributions to the township such as serving as an officer of WCOLA as well as on its Historical Committee. She was active in all Wabana Community Fund events, and co-founded the Wabana Bone Builders program. We send sympathy to Sherry’s family and friends and will always remember her!



photos by Frieda Hall and Gail Otteson

Save the Date!



The Annual Hunter's Supper

Saturday, November 9th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Wabana Town Hall

If you would like to receive The Warbler by email, contact Loree Miltich at: Lmiltich@aol.com

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