

Volume 24  
Issue 2  
Summer 2020



# Wabana Warbler

*A Newsletter for Residents of Wabana Township*

**Upcoming Events:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month, 7 PM:** Township Board Meeting at Township Hall and via Zoom.  
MEETING ID:831422223289  
PASSWORD: WabanaMtg1

**August 8:**  
Tentative annual meeting of the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA). Subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions. Follow on [wcola.org](http://wcola.org).

**September 23, 9AM:**  
Road clean up with WCOLA. Meet at Township Hall.

**Tuesdays and Fridays 10:00-11:30 am:**  
Interested in getting some exercise outside? Join area women for exercise and socializing on the Township Hall Tennis courts! All welcome! (weather permitting).

## New Editors

Welcome to the new Wabana Warbler and Wabana Township website editors! Keith and I moved to our home on Wabana Lake in 2017. Keith's family has a cabin on Lawrence Lake, so this felt like home the day we moved in!

Jane & Keith Moore

## Accolades

This spring included several Wabana Township projects that deserve recognition. Thank you, Ken Aho, for placing flags on the graves at the Wabana Cemetery for Memorial Day!

Thank you to the volunteers for designing and filling the planter in front (including donation of many of the beautiful plants by Carol Speedling) of the Township Hall and to her helpers: Chris Bjerke, Diane Clough, Chris Friedlieb, Anne Johnson, Jean Melin and Wayne Speedling.



Thanks to the spring cleanup by WCOLA volunteers which was well staffed (additional socially distancing helpers not included in picture). Thank you!

## Congratulations!

Ruth Fordham (right), Wabana Township Clerk, was given the Citizenship of the Year Award at the Annual Township Meeting by Loree Miltich (left) on March 10, 2020. Thank you, Ruth for all you do!



## Wabana Township Comprehensive Use Plan

A group of township volunteers are working on developing a Comprehensive Use Plan for Wabana Township with the objectives to provide:

- 1) A history of the township origins and to serve as a resource outlining what it has to offer today
- 2) An outline for the future of Wabana Township as an integral, valuable component of Itasca County providing recreational opportunities and offering a mix of rural residential living in a pristine environment, and
- 3) The basis for Township operations and guide for future decisions working with Wabana Township stakeholders.

**PRIMARY GOAL:** To position Wabana Township as a fully intact, rural part of Itasca County as a whole, whose rural qualities will vary as appropriate within the Township and whose central physical feature is the clean and attractive waters of the lakes. With inputs from residents of Wabana Township, the purpose of the plan is to define:

- Ways to retain and promote a sense of community
- Present and future land use, including shoreland areas, within the township
- Plans for future management of the township roads
- Plans for management of current recreational assets and future development
- Plans for preserving and protecting natural resources
- Township facilities' maintenance and improvement plans
- Shore land overlay guidelines
- Means to review plans with citizen inputs and plans for the revised Wabana Township Ordinance 101 that regulates the Shoreland Overlay District of Wabana Township
- Ways to strengthen the relationship and collaboration with WCOLA
- Ways to develop and strengthen Wabana Township's working relationship with the Itasca County Board of Commissioners, Environmental Services Department and land departments (MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Pollution Control Agency, various soil and water organizations).

### COMMITTEE GOALS:

- Keep development costs minimal through volunteer efforts, in-kind services and other low-cost support.
- Utilize professional support to facilitate community meetings for citizen inputs, final packaging and distribution of the plan.
- Use Itasca County to provided copy & printing at cost and other county department's services.

- Utilize Township legal services to 1) review, comment and update the comprehensive plan's wording as needed, and 2) address and update the Township's Shoreland ordinance (Ordinance 101) to reflect citizen inputs obtained by the Comprehensive Plan effort.

Funding for this effort will be primarily from the Township's reserve funds, a grant of \$9,000 from Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Board and WCOLA. If you are interested in supporting this effort financially, you may donate to WCOLA.

#### SURVEY STATUS:

The Wabana Township Community survey was completed June 8th. There were 228 residents who took the survey. A summary of the responses is attached. Results will be considered for the Township Comprehensive Plan. We will provide access to the Survey Results in the revised Wabana Township website.

Thank you to all who took the time to express your opinions and viewpoints.  
Your Wabana Township Advisory Committee



### Wabana Community Fund News

#### Scholarship Winner

Miranda Rasmussen is the winner of the Wabana Community Fund Scholarship for 2020! She plans to attend University of North Dakota in the fall! Congratulations!

#### Next Community Fund Meeting

September 14 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall.

### WABANA TOWNSHIP IS TURNING 100!

People are always looking for an excuse to have a party. Wabana Township has a perfect excuse—a 100-year anniversary in 2021! With most of the chain of lakes in the township, this is a great opportunity for the Township and WCOLA to partner to have a celebration. An organizing committee has been formed! Christ Bjerka, Anne Johnson, Deb Kee, Roger Linder, Jean Melin, Jim Olijnek and Carol Speedling.

The committee will be responsible to present a recommendation to both organizations for a formal 100-year celebration event. Currently, we have the conceptual support of the Township Officers and WCOLA, Jim Olijnek and Steve Melin.

Roger Linder 218-326-2266

Jim Olijnek 218-326-2431

**Township Officers & Staff:** Lloyd Adams, chair (218-999-9749 or cell: 218-259-1987, lradams\_94@msn.com), Steve Bjerke, supervisor (507-327-5230, bjerkehome@hotmail.com), Denny Davis, supervisor (Denny\_55306@yahoo.com); Ruth Fordham, clerk (218-259-0228, ruthwabanaclerk@yahoo.com), Deb Kee, treasurer (218-326-2115, dk317322115@gmail.com), Ken Aho, maintenance (218-256-7230). Items for the Warbler? Email: editor.wabana.warbler@gmail.com  
For COVID-19 information: <https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/798/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Information>

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