

Volume 24
Issue 3

Winter 2020-21



Wabana Warbler

A Newsletter for Residents of Wabana Township

Township Meetings 1st Wednesday of the Month

7:00 PM: Township Board Meeting at Township Hall and via Zoom.

MEETING ID:
841 1114 6136
PASSWORD: WabanaMtg2

Tuesdays and Fridays

10:00-11:30 AM:
Join area women for exercise and socializing at the Town Hall.

March 9, 2021:

7:00 PM: Annual Wabana Township Meeting via Zoom (See meeting details above)

May 5, 2021

9:00 AM: Road clean up with WCOLA. Meet at Township Hall.

May 3, 2021

6:30 PM: Wabana Community Fund meeting in the Township Hall.

100-Year Celebration!

July 31, 2021: Township Hall!

Meetings

Due to the constantly changing guidance from the Governor of Minnesota, please make sure to check out <https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/798/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Information> to confirm in-person meeting guidance.

Memorials and Accolades

A tree has been implanted in memory of Sherry Miner. An icon in Wabana Township who passed away in 2019.



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



Wabana Township Community Fund Scholarship

Applicants must be a resident of Wabana Township and pursuing their first or second year of post-secondary education in the fall of 2021.

Applications must be received by April 16, 2021. Forms are available on the township website and in the guidance office at the high school.

Wabana Township Comprehensive Use Plan

The Wabana Township Comprehensive Plan was approved by the Township Board at the January 6, 2021 regular meeting. The plan is the result of an 18-month effort by the volunteer Advisory Committee (Deb Kee, Jim Olijnek, Gary Oja, Bob Moore, Wayne Speedling, Steve Melin, and Steve Bjerke) and was developed with inputs from Wabana Township citizens. The plan can be found at the Wabana Township website (wabanatownship.com).

The plan's intent is *to preserve and improve the character and quality of life in Wabana Township*. It does this by defining a vision for future decisions on land and water use and growth while protecting our environment and lakes, providing a reference for Itasca County by defining for them what the citizens of Wabana Township want to see for the Township, and helping strengthen the township's relationships with many government entities. The plan also includes an overview of the township and its history.

To achieve this intent, the Wabana Township Comprehensive Plan has identified 4 goals and 13 strategies with action plans. These strategies will be worked on during over a 5-year prespecified period. The volunteer Township Planning Commission is

Help Our Lakes Stay Clean

Currently, the only AIS staffed public boat landings in Wabana Township are the 2 on Wabana Lake, and this is only part-time and for only a few days per week. This effort alone is not enough to curb the risk of AIS getting into our lakes. In collaboration across Wabana Township, the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association (WCOLA) and Itasca County, we would like to purchase an AIS decontamination unit to be housed at the Wabana Township Hall that could be used by anyone requesting the service before or after visiting a body of water. The Wabana Town Board approved a motion to investigate this plan. Deer Lake has a similar unit in operation, so this would be the second unit located at a permanent site in Itasca County.

Wabana Township would store the unit, provide the electricity and water to run the unit, and allow watercraft decontamination to take place on township premises. This location provides easy access to boaters using any of the township's lakes. The unit is also portable, and if needed, could be moved to specific lake access areas, but would primarily be used at the town hall. A trained employee of the Itasca County AIS program would operate the unit.

We need to raise \$25,000 to purchase and maintain the unit. We will also be requesting money from the AIS Community Action Project Grant Program and any other outside interests we can solicit. Some of the money will need to come from the township citizens. The recent Wabana Township survey indicated that most respondents were concerned about AIS and water quality in our lakes.

The WCOLA is a 501c3 non-profit organization and will be accepting the donations to purchase a high-quality decontamination unit for Wabana Township. To date, approximately \$22,500 has been raised. If we can't meet the requirements of this project, all donations will be returned. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Mark Conover (WCOLA Environmental Committee Chair – markellenconover@gmail.com). We would like to have this unit in operation in Spring of 2021. Thank you!

tasked with initiating and monitoring the strategies and action plan activities and will be soliciting your help in achieving our goals. Please consider helping with your time and talents by responding to volunteer requests that will be published in future editions of the Warbler and posted on the Township's website.

Mark Conover, Steve Melin, Steve Bjerke, Bob Moore & Dave Lick

If your employer offers matching funds, please consider this also. Make checks payable to WCOLA and write "AIS Decon. Unit" on the memo line, and mail to:

Jean Koewler, WCOLA Treasurer
32040 Wakeman Bay Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

GET INVOLVED!

A strategic initiative identified in the Wabana Township Comprehensive Plan (#5) is to develop a Township Communications Plan using available resources; this Warbler newsletter, the township website and Township meetings! This initiative would require the formation of a ***new volunteer group*** to solicit input, ideas and assistance to improve communications within the Township. If you are interested in being part of this group to provide your thoughts & ideas, please use the Contact Form on the township webpage (<https://wabanatownship.com/contact-form/>)

WABANA TOWNSHIP IS TURNING 100!

With most of the Wabana chain of lakes (WCOLA) in the township, this is a great opportunity for the Township and WCOLA to partner to have a celebration. Please see enclosed details to participate!

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

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