

2023 Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge Annual Meeting

Friends of the Refuge held its annual meeting on May 18, 2023 at the Curtis Community Building. Our bylaws specify that a meeting of the membership takes place each year to discuss organization business and to elect individuals to the board of directors. Members elected Bill MacLachlan and Marilyn Zick to three-year terms as directors and voted to approve amendments to the organization's bylaws.

In addition to official member business, President Bill MacLachlan recognized retiring board members Nancy Strawe, Bill Hart and Tom Kenney for their service to the organization. Bill also summarized key achievements over the last year, including the adoption of our new 'nickname' and a major renovation to the Friends website. He also noted that due to the generous support of our members and donors, the Friends donated \$103,680.15 to the refuge for educational exhibits at the new visitor center.

Thanks to the members who attended the annual meeting for providing support, encouragement, and fresh ideas! Minutes of the annual meeting are below.



2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES SENEY NATIONAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION *DBA Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge*

Welcome Members and Friends

Board members present: MacLeod, Hubbard, Sheppard, Zick, MacLachlan, Annelin, Frazier.

Members present: L. Gasaway, T. Kenney, N. Strawe, L. Smith.

Refuge staff present: S. Giles

President MacLachlan called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. MacLachlan welcomed members.

Acknowledgement of Retiring Board Members

President MacLachlan recognized board members Nancy Strawe, Bill Hart and Tom Kenney, who retired from the board in 2023. Strawe and Kenney were present and expressed thanks for their letters. Letters of recognition are included in the Appendix.

Review and Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Frazier summarized 2022 annual membership meeting minutes. Motion to accept as submitted by MacLeod; second, Zick. Approved.

Membership Status Report

Frazier reported on new member and membership renewal status as of May 17, 2023. Report attached.

The newly renovated Friends website was introduced. Gasaway asked if events were only going to be posted on Facebook. Frazier will look at the message on the News page to see if clarification is needed.

Review of 2022 Financial Statements

Zick reviewed year end October 31, 2022 financial statements. Motion to accept, Kenney; second, Annelin. Approved. Financial statements are in the Appendix.

Approval of Bylaws Revision

Proposal to amend bylaws was submitted for approval by the Bylaws Committee. Sheppard explained a correction to the proposal document and provided an overview of the bylaws amendment proposal. Approved. Approved bylaws are presented in a separate file and will be stored electronically in 2023 annual meeting minutes file. A hard copy will be stored in SNHA files located at the SNWR Visitor Center.

Nominating Committee Report and Recommendation /Approval for 2023-2026 Board Member Positions

Motion by Nominating Committee to nominate Bill MacLachlan and Marilyn Zick to the board of directors for a three-year term, to expire at the end of the 2026 annual meeting. Approved.

Refuge Staff: Construction Project Update

S. Giles reviewed progress on GAOA projects. She noted that design plans for the Visitor Center are 85% complete. Completion of the visitor center/office complex is expected in 2025. Attendees also viewed the new refuge welcome video.

Comments from members and guests

Kenney asked if there were any additional refuge projects and initiatives for which the Friends could develop a targeted fundraising project. Giles noted that there will likely be additional needs/wants for the visitor center as building progresses and will share ideas.

Sheppard summarized marketing committee accomplishments including adoption of the DBA name, newsletter. She also shared planning update Loonapalooza, which is an event scheduled for August 11, 2023. The goal of the event is to strengthen relationships with our current members, invite new members and build awareness of Friends of the SNWR in the refuge region.

The annual Photo Contest will resume after a three-year hiatus due to pandemic restrictions. SNWR will partner with Erickson Center for the Arts for the 2023 event.

Motion to adjourn MacLeod; Hubbard second. Approved. Adjourned at 3:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Frazier

Secretary

Next regular board meeting is June 8, 2023 at 2:30 pm in the Curtis Community Building.

Appendix

Letters of Recognition to Retiring Board Members

William Hart
407 Cedars Lane
Dexter MI 48130

Dear Bill,

The board of directors and members of the Seney Natural History Association would like to extend our sincere gratitude to you for sharing your time and talent with SNHA. Your service over the last nine years as a board member and as vice president have enriched and strengthened us as an organization, and we are truly grateful.

Among your many contributions, we especially appreciate your work to pursue and obtain the Building Rural Community Support Grant, and all the hours you spent developing membership recruiting materials and engaging with the community to recruit members. We also are grateful for your support in building the SNHA website that enabled us to communicate with our members and reach out to new supporters. We know there are many more SNHA successes that would not have been possible without your help, and for all of them we are truly thankful.

In addition to your tangible contributions, we will always value your thoughtful assessment of important issues that confronted the organization. We were able to count on you for a clear analysis of an issue and appreciate the commonsense solutions you always proposed.

Thank you for your service to SNHA, your passion for our mission, and for your commitment to our community. We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Bill MacLachlan
President
Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge

Tom Kenney
PO Box 266
Curtis, MI 49820

Dear Tom,

The board of directors and members of the Friends of Seney Wildlife Refuge would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your outstanding service to the organization, including your service as president from 2014-2018. Your many contributions over the last 18 years have been instrumental in building the strong organization that we are today. Your passion and caring have enriched the community and the refuge and will for many years.

Your gift of time and wisdom has benefited SNHA in so many ways. Among the many contributions that have strengthened the organization, your leadership in raising funds to renovate the Showpool Shelter has had a lasting and valuable impact on the community. Your work to develop the SNHA website benefited our efforts to communicate with members and reach out to new supporters. Your ongoing support of bookstore operations has given SNHA a strong tool for generating funds to carry out our mission.

Your extraordinary experience with SNHA has especially helped us as we continue to evolve. We are very thankful to have had the benefit of your knowledge of the history of the organization to direct us as we grow. Your guidance has led us to where we are today. We look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Bill MacLachlan
President
Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge

Nancy Strawe
W17132 Carlson Rd.
Gould City, MI 49838

Dear Nancy,

The members and board of directors of the Seney Natural History Association would like to extend our sincere gratitude for your service to the Seney National History Association. Your contributions and devotion to the organization and to the community over the last 23 years have strengthened the Friends of Seney Refuge beyond measure. Board service is a challenging volunteer role, and you took on your Board duties with dedication, grace, and seriousness.

Your role as treasurer of the organization for many years assured us that the organization's assets were carefully recorded, protected, analyzed and available to accomplish our mission. The time you devoted to communicating with members and managing membership activities has been instrumental in building the strong organization that we are today. In addition, your efforts in supporting bookstore operations in multiple ways have been key in our ability to support the refuge financially. We are also grateful for the time you gave to representing SNHA at regional events and meetings. We also gratefully recognize the many, many other details you managed that enabled SNHA to operate smoothly and efficiently.

We miss working with you as a board member but look forward to your continued support and advocacy of SNHA.

Sincerely,

Bill MacLachlan
President
Friends of Seney National Wildlife Refuge

Membership Status Report

Friends of Seney Wildlife Refuge
Membership Report
May 18, 2023

Total Membership as of 5/17/23		
	2023 to Date	2022 Total
Annual Renewed	77	114
Expired Renewed	5	
New Members	10	3
New Life Members	2	1
Existing Life members	29	27
Total	123	145

Membership Category	As of 5/17/23	2022 Total
Senior	24	36
Individual	6	9
Family	11	20
Contributing	19	17
Supporting	29	29
Life	31	28
Business	2	5
Corporate	1	0
Total	123	145

Financial Reports

11/08/22

Seney Natural History Association
Profit & Loss Prior Year Comparison
 November 2021 through October 2022

	Nov '21 - Oct 22	Nov '20 - Oct 21
Income		
INCOME		
ASSOCIATION SOURCES		
Donations		
Annual dues/donations	3,970.00	3,090.00
Memorials	3,195.00	2,245.00
Merchandise donation box	550.60	0.00
Visitor Center box	259.30	1,922.91
Donations - Other	2,305.52	6,498.36
Total Donations	10,280.42	13,756.27
Investments & Interest	289.94	408.94
Misc. Income	10,175.20	0.00
SNHA membership dues	3,745.00	4,025.00
Total ASSOCIATION SOURCES	24,490.56	18,190.21
BUSINESS OPERATIONS		
Bookstore Sales		
Sales cash	1,355.52	6,047.04
Sales credit card	0.00	30,537.46
Short/over	0.00	-22.27
Total Bookstore Sales	1,355.52	36,562.23
Total BUSINESS OPERATIONS	1,355.52	36,562.23
Total INCOME	25,846.08	54,752.44
Total Income	25,846.08	54,752.44
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Mdse Sold	664.03	32,120.65
Sales Tax monthly fee	0.00	2,034.63
Total COGS	664.03	34,155.28
Gross Profit	25,182.05	20,597.16
Expense		
ASSOCIATION		
Administrative Costs		
Administrative Costs - Other	0.00	100.00
Advertising cost	0.00	280.00
Business Insurance	450.00	475.00
Computer Expense	125.02	1,207.00
Internet access	0.00	1,086.73
Newsletter	0.00	199.87
Nonprofit Corporation filing fe	30.00	20.00
Office supplies	318.80	296.00
Postage & shipping	188.00	275.00
Tax and Accounting Fees	895.00	875.00
Website -SNHA	1,019.99	342.99
Total Administrative Costs	3,026.81	5,157.59
Bookstore Operations		
Bookstore supplies	0.00	57.22
Credit card machine fee	40.00	962.16
Service and hardware	0.00	667.19
Tech Support - POS	175.00	661.58
Total Bookstore Operations	215.00	2,368.15
Total ASSOCIATION	3,241.81	7,525.74
REFUGE SUPPORT		
General Refuge Support	662.00	0.00

11/08/22

Seney Natural History Association
Profit & Loss Prior Year Comparison
November 2021 through October 2022

	Nov '21 - Oct 22	Nov '20 - Oct 21
Visitor Center Services		
Exhibits - new and repairs	75,000.00	0.00
Timberland Wolf Alliance	150.00	150.00
Total Visitor Center Services	75,150.00	150.00
Volunteer & Intern Support		
Volunteers		
BBQ, socials - food	0.00	25.00
Recognition Dinner	-194.27	-221.82
Total Volunteers	-194.27	-196.82
Total Volunteer & Intern Support	-194.27	-196.82
Total REFUGE SUPPORT	75,617.73	-46.82
Total Expense	78,859.54	7,478.92
Net Income	-53,677.49	13,118.24