The Board of Directors of the Weller Mountain Fish and Game Preserve met on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 6:00 pm at the Main Lodge.

Directors present: Mike Baire, Tim Green, Tim Bacon, Kermit Blanchard, Terry Cleveland

Members present: Mark Wiltsey, Larry Hopsicker, Al Hundley, Bill Dailey, Tom Oakes, Wayne Cleveland, Ron Goyea, Sr., John Smith, Bob Meashaw, Elliott Wood, Bill Baker, Bill Roda, Russ McEwen, John Hollinshead, Bob Haggett, President Ron Goyea, Jr., Caretaker Rusty Crump, and Secretary-Treasurer George Fowler

The previous minutes were approved.

SECRETARY-TREASURER REPORT

George Fowler handed out financial reports and noted the club was in good fiscal shape for this time of year. We are running a deficient, which is normal for this time period, but nothing to be alarming. Financials are on the website in members only. Remember the user name is weller and the password hogbackbrook.

Fowler noted the lease committee was meeting with tour landowner, Woodwise, the next day. Some topics were mentioned that will be brought up. One of these is the proposed snowmobile trail by St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association which would cut through the club. It was decided until we know the position of the landowner there is no need for us to discussion this further. At the June meeting this will be a topic along with what happened at the meeting.

Woodwise had also asked for help from the club in a tax matter. The Town of Parishville had raised the assessment on timberland from $360/acre to $680/acre. These increased taxes could effect future leases.

Two potential members were proposed.

Travis Cole from South Colton, NY was sponsored by Tim Green and Al Hundley.
Gregory Bechard of Plattsburgh, NY was sponsored by Mike Baire and Jim Dubrey.

Both were approved. The waiting list is now 9 people.

DEER AND FISH REPORT

Fish will be delivered on Saturday. They are going into Weller Pond and Outlet. Deer looked fine after winter and six more bales had to be purchased.

RECREATION AND FUND-RAISING

Kermit Blanchard reported that the hunting safety course was highly successful. Nineteen people took the course and all passed including five adults. The Tuesday breakfast club gave $50 to support the day and it cost the club nothing.

Blanchard would like to hold an archery hunter safety course in the fall. If you have interest contact Kermit at 315-212-7584 or 315-265-9209. He already has 12 interested parties.

Tim Bacon said the Family Picnic scheduled for August 10th is already in the planning stages. A tent and bouncy house have been reserved and pheasants for the release will be ordered. It was voted to provide $300 for kid prizes and Tim or Kermit Blanchard will gladly accept donations.

The Parishville ATV Club will on the property on June 1st for a guided tour and dinner.
provided by the club. This is a fund-raiser.

We still need a chairman for the golf tournament on August 24th. Please contact a director if you are interested.

Interest is being gauged on the desire for another Grandparents Day this summer.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Terry Cleveland noted a lot of work was done on the main roads and trails on work weekend. He wanted to especially note people who brought heavy equipment up to the Club which included Desmond Doyle, Richard Wickwire, Matt Morgan, Bill Riggs, Tim Green, and Terry Cleveland.

Other needs are a couple of bad culverts need to be replaced and planking on the major bridges is in poor shape. Cleveland considers purchasing a full size backhoe would be a valuable asset.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Tim. Green noted the record turnout for work weekend. He said many things were accomplished including a huge amount of firewood cut. Other items were a deck at Arquette being underway, docks at the three ponds repaired, entranceway in the bunkhouse fixed. Bill Roda and Bill Baker will be doing floor painting in the Lodge and some cabins. More outhouses will be installed. John Dalton will be working on Hay Meadows log replacement.

Skeet range site is still being considered including the present rife range, Sheldon Mountain and Camp Mountain. Ideas and volunteers to help with the project are needed.

It was voted to spend $427 to update the defibrillator at the Main Lodge.

KITCHEN AND BAR

John Smith reported Lorena our former cook was thrilled with her Home Depot gift certificate. Russ McEwen’s sister was helping Lorena during fish week to see if she would like the job of cook this coming fall. If not, we will start advertising. The bar is stocked.

Smith said the website is operating fine but he is considering having a forum on the members only section where members could express opinions about matters in the club so Directors could receive feedback. Comments would have to be signed. John will continue to investigate this option.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Ron Goyea, Jr. noted the record turnout at work weekend. He said the stove in the Roost of the Caretakers house needs replacing.

CARETAKER’S REPORT

Rusty Crump thanked everyone for a great job at work weekend. He noted the old propane generator had been removed.

Please note that if you do not attend a work weekend but want to work at another time you must contact Rusty to get credit for doing this and avoid the $50 fine. He will direct you to projects and mark you down for doing the work.

TUESDAY BREAKFAST CLUB

Al Hundley noted the Tuesday Breakfast Club had donated $1010 so far this year to club
including a plaque for Bob Whalen, gas grill and picnic table. Everyone is welcome to attend the Monday night dinners or Tuesday Breakfast.

OLD BUSINESS
Encouragement was voiced to sell as many cash raffle tickets as possible for this is the major fund-raiser for the club and insures a profitable year. Sell 35 tickets and you receive a free guest pass or m70 and receive two. Need more tickets for the August 10th drawing? Contact the Secretary-Treasurer or the Caretaker.

The Wounded Warrior program mentioned in the last meeting will be offered on the club. This program allows disabled veterans to enjoy the outdoors either via fishing, hunting, ATVing or other things. Member guest passes will be used to facilitate the program.

NEW BUSINESS
The lottery for cabins for hunting season will be held at noon on Memorial Day, May 27th. Please get your choices for cabins into the Caretaker before that time. You should choose three possible cabins you would like for a time period not to exceed five days during the hunting season.

Please note the scheduled start of hunting season has been wrong in the last minutes. New York State changed the method of determining the start of rifle hunting in the North Country. This year rifle season starts on October 26th and that will be the date of the Annual Meeting. Muzzle loader starts on October 19th.

John Smith and Bill Baker will work on a brochure for new members explaining all the events that happen at the club for the benefit of new members. Updates are always available on the website.

Next director’s meeting is Tuesday, June 4th at the Lodge at 6:00 p.m.

LEASE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Lease Committee (Mike Baire, Bill Dailey, Ron Goyea, Jr., Kermit Blanchard and George Fowler) met with representatives of the landowner Woodwise Matt Smith and Dan Prokupets on May 15. The meeting was cordial and quite productive. Woodwise emphasized that we are good stewards of the land and they are very happy leasing to us. They hold up our club as an example of how clubs should be run to other people. They direct a lot of people to our website. A summary of points made follows.

1. The current lease terminates on October 15, 2015. Weller will start formulating a new lease with proposed payments, length of lease and any modification of terms so Woodwise can review and negotiate.
2. No logging is planned for this summer or fall and probably nothing this coming winter.
3. Weller will put together documentation of repairs necessary for bridges and culverts with cost estimates and pictures and submit them to Woodwise for consideration.
4. Woodwise will pay for the fabrication of the heatilator for the Main Lodge fireplace. Weller will provide labor to rebuild the fireplace.
5. Woodwise is investigating if New York State has plans for a snowmobile trail as part of the easement. If not, Woodwise will let Weller decide if the St. Lawrence County
Snowmobile Association should be allowed to build the trail.

6. If any New York State personnel are observed on the property, Woodwise would like to be advised. They will keep us informed if they have given anyone permission.

7. If we find a site for the trap range, Woodwise only wants to know its location.

8. Any agreement with a Woodwise forester, like cutting log trees, should also be double checked with Matt Smith.

9. Woodwise would like to be kept informed about the Wounded Warriors program.