

FLYING FINN
7503 LEVANDER RD
EMBARRASS, MN 55732
APRIL 2024
ISSUE #393



Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, April 6
Timber Hall




www.autismspeaks.org

Earth Day – April 22
Arbor Day – April 26

Embarrass Town Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Please submit materials for the May 2024 issue to the
Embarrass Clerk's Office by April 23, 2024
Office Hours Monday-Thursday 10 a.m-3 p.m.

APRIL 2024

	1 Clerk's Office Closed Flower and Garden Club Meeting 7 p.m.	2 Ladies Coffee	3	4 Office Closed MATS Short Course Training	5	6
7  4 Corners 4-H 4 p.m.	8	9 Ladies Coffee	10 Township Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	11 Conversational Finn 1-2:30	12	13
14	15 Tax Filing Deadline Sisu Meeting 6:30 p.m.	16 Ladies Coffee	17 Bookmobile at Four Corners 5:00-6:00 p.m.	18 Conversational Finn 1-2:30	19	20
21	22	23 Ladies Coffee Flying Finn Deadline	24 Sewing Club	25 Conversational Finn 1-2:30	26	27
28	29	30 Ladies Coffee				

FROM THE EDITOR: The Flying Finn strives to represent both Embarrass and the surrounding area. To submit articles, advertisements, community notices, letters to the editor, photos, artwork, etc. for the newsletter, mail them to Embarrass Town Hall, 7503 Levander Rd, Embarrass, MN 55732, or email embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net.

Please include your name, phone number and e-mail address. Photos or other materials will be returned as soon as possible. The township regrets that it is unable to purchase or reimburse for materials which are published. The Town of Embarrass reserves the right to publish or not publish any letter to the editor or other submitted material. Call 218-984-2084 with any questions.

Thank you. Diane Nelmark, Editor

Town of Embarrass

Regular Meeting – February 14, 2024

Present: Jack LaMar, Shireen Lee, Eric Garman, Mary Novak, Jennifer Boese; Visitors: Bill Wright, Paul Knuti, Mickey White, Tana Johnson, Pat Erchul

Meeting called to order by LaMar with The Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 p.m.

Tana speaks on behalf of the ERFVA and is asking for support from the supervisors with the Empowering Small Minnesota Communities program and asking if will sign letter supporting and partnership. *Lee motions, Garman Second, to approve and sign letter as requested. Carries 3-0.* All supervisors would like to serve as point of contact.

Pat Erchul with St. Louis County roads department speaks on township roads. Roads should be prioritized. The roads do need brushing on the sides. Lack of material on roads, but there is some on sides that could be pulled in. After driving on for little while come back with grader. This is not a one-year project, it will take some time. Chloride is good but also soaks down into the roadbeds and then doesn't work so well. Having the culverts replaced was a good move on township. County could do the brushing with price of \$34 an hour for the equipment and around \$23 an hour for labor. Possibly try to use township grader if able to save on funds. Erchul advises supervisors that should really start doing something with the roads. LaMar states roads should be prioritized, second to brush the roads, grade the roads and pull the sides as best we can then have County to do the final pass with the material. Erchul agrees. Erchul blames nobody as the township can only do so much with what the township has, but roads do need to be addressed.

Treasurers Report given by Novak. The Board of Audit will be held February 28 at 6 p.m.

LaMar motions, Second Garman for Clerk to contact Credit Union and have the EVFCU account be taken off personal app accounts. Carried 3-0.

Motion LaMar, Second Lee to approve Babbit Lions beer sales for the ERFA. Carried 3-0.

Motion Garman, Second Lee to accept RESOLUTION 1213 Public Comment Policy. Carried 3-0.

Motion LaMar, Second Garman to use the Public Comment Forms for public comments at Board Meetings. Carried 3-0.

Cemetery Rates tabled.

Meeting adjourned 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Boese

EMBARRASS TOWNSHIP

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURE

As a courtesy, the Board will provide a public comment period for persons not directly involved in an agenda item. Persons may address the Embarrass Town Board during the public comment period. The public comment period is limited to three (3) minutes, per person, per meeting.

The following are public comment regulations:

1. Please fill out the form below, detach, and present to the clerk or chair prior to the meeting.
2. Presentation is limited to three (3) minutes

The Board will hear the presentation and may:

1. Direct the matter to staff to handle, or
2. Direct the matter to staff to research and place the matter on a future agenda, or
3. Not comment on certain matters

Thank you.

TO ALL PERSONS ADDRESSING THE EMBARRASS TOWN BOARD AT PUBLIC COMMENT:

DATE: _____

In order to accurately record your name and address for the official minutes of this meeting, please complete the following and hand it into the Clerk, before addressing the Embarrass Town Board.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SUBJECT TO BE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD:

**EMBARRASS TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION #1213
ESTABLISH
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY / PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY**

WHEREAS: the town board is the governing body of Embarrass Township charged by law with certain powers and duties to conduct the affairs of the Town;

WHEREAS: the Board determines the adoption of an administrative policy will enhance the effectiveness of its meetings and establish uniform procedures for the Board in how it conducts its business and for those wishing to attend the proceedings; and

WHEREAS: this policy takes into consideration the particular circumstances of the Town, which include, but are not limited to the following: the Town is rural in nature; holds only one regular town board meeting a month;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the town board of Embarrass Township, St. Louis County, Minnesota hereby adopts the following administrative policy;

1. **Scope.** The procedures established in this policy shall apply to the regular board meetings of the Board and, to the extent practicable, special Board meetings and Board hearings. This policy shall not apply to annual town meetings, special town meetings, closed meetings, on-site inspections, or any committee or subcommittee meetings. For the purposes of this policy, the term “meeting” shall be read as including, to the extent practicable, hearings, conducted by the board.
 - a. **Data Practices Act.** The Board is not bound by the requirements of the Minnesota Data Practices Act and nothing herein is intended to adopt, or shall be interpreted as adopting, the restrictions or requirements of the data practices act. Without limiting the forgoing, to the extent the Board is aware it has information that would be classified by the data practices act as something other than public data, it will take reasonable steps to limit its release.
2. **Meeting Time and Location.** The Board conducts one regular Board meeting a month on the second Wednesday of each month, at 6:00pm, at the town hall located at 7503 Levander Road, Embarrass MN. If the day of a regular meeting falls on a holiday, or for some other reason may not be held on the regularly scheduled day, the meeting will then be held on the following Wednesday at the same time and place unless notice is posted indicating the meeting will be held at a different time or place.
 - a. **Holidays.** As provided in Minn. Stat. 645.44, subd. 5, Christopher Columbus Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving shall not be considered holidays and so public business may be transacted on those days.
3. **Calling a Special Board Meeting.** The Board chairperson may call a special meeting of the Board to address an issue or issues that require consideration before the next regular Board meeting. The chairperson shall contact the town clerk of the need for a special Board meeting and the town clerk shall notify the other supervisors of the date, time and place of the meeting. The town clerk shall provide notice of the meeting as required by the open meeting law.
4. **Presiding Officer.** The Board chairperson shall be the presiding officer of Board meetings. In the absence of the chairperson, the vice chairperson shall preside. The presiding officer shall have the power to preserve order and decorum at the meetings, enforce rules of procedure, and determine without debate, subject to the final decision of the board on appeal, all questions of procedure and order.
 - a. **Appeal of Presiding Officer’s Rulings.** Any member of the Board may appeal from a ruling of the presiding officer. If the appeal is seconded, the member may speak once solely to the question(s) involved and the presiding officer may explain his or her ruling, but no other Board member shall participate in the discussion. A majority vote of the Board shall determine the question.
 - b. **Rights of Presiding Officer.** The presiding officer is a full member of the board and retains all of the rights to speak, make and second motions, and to vote on matters of town business to the same extent as any other town supervisor.

5. **Order of Business.** At the appointed time for the meeting, the presiding officer shall call the meeting to order. If a quorum is present, the Board shall then proceed with its business.
6. By rule, no action may be taken on any item brought before the town council during the open forum. The board may place items discussed during the open forum onto subsequent meeting agendas. Members of the public may address the Board at the time designated in the order of business for citizen comments. Citizens addressing the Board shall confine their remarks to the specific matter under debate. Everyone who attends a meeting shall at all times conduct themselves in a professional manner and shall not: speak until recognized by the presiding officer; engage in disorderly conduct; disrupt the proceedings; speak longer than the allotted time; speak to matters beyond the scope of the particular matter currently before the board; use profane language; or engage in any other activity which disturbs the peace and good order of the meeting. Any person who persists in disturbing the meeting after having received a warning from the presiding officer may be asked to leave the meeting. If the person does not leave, the presiding officer or other town officer may contact law enforcement to have the person removed from the meeting.
 - a. **Spokesperson.** The presiding officer may ask a group attending a meeting that wishes to address the Board on the same subject to appoint a spokesperson for the group to expedite matters and avoid repetition. The spokesperson will have three (3) minutes to address the board on the issue.
 - b. **Written Materials.** Citizens may submit written comments or materials to the Board before or at a meeting and may ask that they be added to the record. The Board shall enter the information into the record as requested unless doing so would be unduly burdensome.
7. **Continuing Meetings.** The Board may by motion continue a meeting to a later time by announcing as part of the motion and recording in the minutes the date, time, and place of the reconvened meeting. Whether notice of the reconvened meeting will be provided is left to the discretion of the Board.
8. **Record.** Minutes of all public board meetings shall be kept in a journal. The vote of each member shall be recorded on each appropriation of money, except for payments of judgments, claims, and amounts fixed by statute.
9. **Amending the Policy.** The Board may amend this policy by resolution.
10. **Severability.** If any part or portion of this policy is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the policy.

Adopted this __14__ day of __February__, 2024 __.

Jack LaMar, Town Chairperson; Attest: Jennifer Boese, Town Clerk

Public Participation. The town board appreciates hearing from citizens about items of concern and desires to set aside time during each meeting for open forum. To provide ample opportunity for all, **speaking time is limited to 3 minutes and topic discussion is limited to 15 minutes.**

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3. Not comment on certain matter

ADS FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Suggested donation to The Flying Finn

1/4 Page = \$8; 1/2 Page = \$13;

Full Page = \$22

To place an ad, write to:

The Flying Finn, 7503 Levander Rd
Embarrass MN 55732

Email embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net

or call the Embarrass Town Clerk
at 984-2084.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Persons interested in subscribing to The Flying Finn may drop off or send a donation of \$15 for one year, payable to the Town of Embarrass, 7503 Levander Road, Embarrass, MN 55732.

The Flying Finn makes a great gift for someone who has moved out of the community!

The Flying Finn and the Town of Embarrass welcome announcements about community events and community groups. These submitted announcements are printed here and on following pages. Neither the Town of Embarrass nor The Flying Finn necessarily endorses the viewpoints or ideology of these groups or their events. The Town of Embarrass reserves the right to publish or not publish any letter to the editor or submitted material.

Summer Job Opening

The Embarrass Township will have an opening for a seasonal Maintenance Laborer. This position will be Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. but hours may vary depending on needs. The position will be held from June to August.

Please stop or email The Embarrass Town Hall Clerk Office for an application. Call Clerk with questions at 984-2084 or embarrasstownship@frontiernet.net

Seasonal Maintenance Labor shall complete the following duties:

1. Carry out responsibilities set by the Township Board of Supervisors, Clerk and Maintenance Contact.
2. Coordinate and resolve work-related problems.
3. Mowing, raking, trimming, and clearing away brush.
4. Painting and repairing masonry or woodwork features of buildings.
5. Cleaning of Town Hall, rest rooms, and other work and public areas.
6. Transport garbage and waste to disposal area.
7. Replenishes bathroom supplies, light bulbs and other supplies.
8. Transport equipment and tools to work sites.
9. Maintains equipment when needed.
10. Set up and take down tables & chairs at Town Hall.
11. Abides by all local, state and federal safety and health laws.

Job Descriptions are subject to change with different activities that the Township is engaged in. Must be at least 16 years or older and have a valid driver's license.



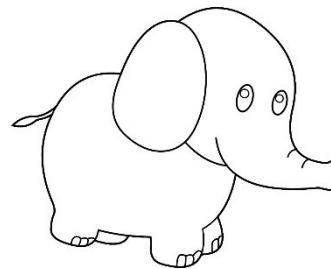
Embarrass Flower & Garden Club

First Meeting of 2024!!

Monday, April 1, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Embarrass Town Hall.

We encourage the public to join us if you are interested in flower and vegetable gardening. Our conversation will include discussion on the upcoming 8th District Horticultural Society Meeting in April and much more. Coffee an' will be served by the members. If you have any questions about the club, please contact Linda Cox at (218) 780-4143.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Hibbing will host their annual White Elephant Sale



Saturday, April 27
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Hibbing Memorial
Building Arena.

The hockey floor, bleachers and hallways will be filled with gently used items from toys and clothes to dishes, furniture, tools, holiday decorations and much more. Sloppy Joes and dessert lunch will be available to purchase. Gently used items can still be dropped off Tuesday-Friday the week of the sale. For more information contact the church office at 218.263-7422 or osclhibb@mchsi.com

SUBMITTED BY Chris Magnuson



Waasa Township

Regular Board
Meeting
February 7, 2024
7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Mike Johnson, Steve Sipola, Kim Daugherty and Sandra Gibson

Absent: Eric Pulkinen

Visitor: None

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Board Chair, Mike Johnson and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: Steve moved to approve the January 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes after part of a sentence was struck. Mike supported. Carried (2-0).

Treasurer's Report: Receipts for February: \$735.71 from SLC (12/23 Tax Apportionment) and \$9,959.21 from MN Office of Management & Budget (EMER MGMT-PA). Disbursements from General Fund totaled \$2,540.07. Mike approved the Treasurer's report with Steve supporting. Carried (2-0).

Approval to Pay Bills: Mike moved to approve payment of the bills listed below plus payroll and PERA with support from Steve. Carried (2-0).

Claims:

- Daugherty, Kim, \$32.41, Treasurer's Printer Ink
- H & S Electric, \$2,100.00, Installed LED Lamps & Added 1 Receptacle
- Lake Country Power, \$114.09, Town Hall Electricity
- L & M Supply, \$26.48, Cartridge Filter for Water
- Menards, \$17.99, Woman's Restroom Toilet Part
- MN Association of Townships, \$341.04, Annual Dues
- MN Benefit Association, \$405.00, Life Insurance for the Board

Road Report: Roads have been muddy due to the unseasonably warm weather & little snow.

Cemetery: Steve has been regularly checking the cemetery.

Old Business: Discussed the up-coming Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 12th at 7 p.m. Mike moved to set the Fire Fund Levy at \$23,500.00, a 3%

increase with a second from Steve. The rest of the funds will remain the same: General Fund: \$15,000.00 and Road & Bridge: \$8,000.00. Total 2025 Levy: \$46,500.00.

Part of the FEMA funding, \$9,223.50 was received for July 2023 flooding on Niemi Road. The remaining reimbursement will be coming after Rip Rap is applied on the site in the spring.

Mike will be hanging the new blinds in the hall

Steve moved to donate \$200.00 to the St. Louis County Agriculture Fair Association with Mike supporting. Carried (2-0).

New Business: Motion was made by Mike and supported by Steve to hire the following for the PNP Election in March:

Kim Daugherty, Lorenda Daugherty, Bonnie Keller, Linda Koskela, Meghan Martin, Julie Shere and Linda Asleson. Carried. One hour training will be held for these judges on April 21st at the Waasa Town Hall.

Spring Short Courses in our area are being held on April 4th in Duluth and on April 5th in Cohasset.

The LBAE Meeting will be held at the town hall on April 23, 2024 from 4-5:00 p.m.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment: Mike moved to close the meeting at 7:55 p.m. and was supported by Steve. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted, Sandra Gibson, Waasa Town Clerk; Mike Johnson, Waasa Board Chair

Waasa Township Annual Meeting

March 14, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Present: Mike Johnson, Steve Sipola, Kim Daugherty, Sandra Gibson, Linda Koskela, Carrie Westvik, Evelyn Esala, Bonnie Keller, David Joki, Floyd Joki, Sarah Ramponi, William Ramponi and Tom Martin

Town Clerk Sandra Gibson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. The clerk asked for nominations from the floor for a meeting moderator. Linda Koskela nominated Bonnie Keller with a second from Carrie Westvik. Bonnie accepted.

Carried (Unanimous). At that time Bonnie assumed the position as moderator.

The 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes were read and Mike Johnson motioned to approve the minutes. Carrie Westvik supported. Carried (Unanimous).

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. We currently have \$75,522.36 in CD's, \$45,813.78 available at EVFCU checking and \$70,562.28 available in savings (Building Fund) as of 3/1/23. Carrie Westvik motioned to approve the report and Floyd Joki supported. Carried (Unanimous).

The Embarrass Regional Volunteer Fire Department Report was given by Tom Martin, Fire Chief. Tom stated that the fire department will be increasing their contract for 2024 by 3%. 2-sided fire number signs have been installed all along highway 21 and 135. When weather is permittable, they will continue to put signs up on the side roads. The signs have already made a big difference in ease of spotting them in an emergency. The department currently have 14 active members with 1662 hours of volunteer service. Calls were down a bit but some of their calls were much more challenging, as with the fatal car accident on Hwy. 21.

Improvements For 2022:

- Purchased 4 sets of turnout gear to replace gear expired last year.
- Installed 400 2-sided signs on area roads
- Obtained a DNR rural fire grant to update wildland firefighting PPE and rain water recovery components for water storage
- Received a very generous donation from the Rantala family of 1.5 acres of property adjacent to our existing property on the South & East boundaries to expand the parking lot. Some back filling will be done to allow medical helicopters to land

Goals For 2023:

- Purchase newer safer PPE to stay compliant and minimize exposure to carcinogens
- Install the remainder of new 2-sided 911 signs
- Work on a Firewise program and other public education programs
- Replace our 1994 rescue rig and 1977 cascade/snowplow with newer models

- Add an additional 8000 gal. water storage tank on donated property
- Prepare an area for a fixed landing zone for air medical on donated property
- We will be holding more emergency response training with our neighboring departments
- As always, we will continue to serve the community

Roads Report: A written report was submitted by Steve Sipola, Roads Supervisor. Township roads are in good condition at this time. Roadside brushing has not been needed yet. A section of Niemi Road was repaired and the culvert was finished off last summer after a hard rain. St. Louis County has been very good keeping up with the township roads when asked. If there are any questions or concerns on township roads, just contact Steve at 218-780-5569.

Cemetery Report: It is hoped there will be volunteers from the community to help on "Cemetery Clean-up Day", which is proposed for Saturday, May 20th starting at 10:00 a.m. Trash will be picked up and Supervisor Carrie would like to clean up over-grown footstones. This clean-up reduces the need to hire the work done. This will be advertised thru posters and the Flying Finn. Clerk's note: Memorial flowers and decorations placed at gravesites should be in sturdy planters rather than a light-weight item anchored only by wire. Using secure decorations which do not fly away in the wind, make it much easier for lawn mowing and keeping the cemetery grounds looking neat. Placement of decorations as close as possible to the grave markers also makes for easier cemetery mowing.

Old Business: One resident had questions on the property Twin Metals has leased from us near the cemetery.

New Business: The board recommended 2024 levy was discussed. The board felt that the levy of the Fire Fund should reflect the actual amount of the contract (3% raise). The following motions were made:

General Fund: \$15,000.00---Linda Koskela moved with support from Tom Martin. Carried (Unanimously)

Road & Bridge: 8,000.00---Floyd Joki moved with support from Steve Sipola. Carried (Unanimously)

Fire Fund: \$22,800.00---Carrie Westvik moved with support from Steve Sipola. Carried (Unanimously)

Total 2024 Levy: \$45,800.00

Other Business: Sarah and William Ramponi were in attendance to give an overview of the Embarrass Region Fair Association. The Association is a non-profit organization which is run and maintained 100% by volunteers. They would like to convey that the facilities could be used for much more than the fair. They'd like to see more community events in the building and grounds. More people are sought to be involved on committees and funding is always welcome for maintaining and improvements of the buildings. Other needs would include computer software to become more efficient with bookkeeping.

Board chair, Mike Johnson reported that the board is considering the replacement of some of the windows in the town hall. Miller's Roofing & Siding and Donald Taylor Remodeling have each submitted estimates for the project. The over-all opinions of those in attendance seemed to be favorable. The board may make a decision on this issue at the April meeting. There was also some approval voiced for a remodel of the Woman's bathroom. Presently, the bathrooms are out of order due to lines being frozen. One suggestion was noted to use heat tape on the lines to keep them open.

There were no suggestions on promoting hall activities or building uses. Mike stated that the hall is used for holiday parties, rummage sales, memorial gatherings and grad parties. No fee is collected from Waasa residents but, proof of home owner's insurance is required. Non-residents will be charged \$50/day. A couple of people in attendance felt perhaps there should be a charge for residents to cover heat and electricity.

Set Time and Place for next Annual Meeting: Mike Johnson moved to begin the 2024 Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Waasa Town Hall with Floyd Joki supporting. Carried (Unanimous).

Adjournment: At 8:05 p.m. Linda Koskela moved to close the meeting with Carrie Westvik supporting. Carried (Unanimous).

Respectfully Submitted, Sandra Gibson, Waasa Town Clerk; Bonnie Keller, Meeting Moderator



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RODNEY'S
SAND & GRAVEL



290-0877
 OR
984-3215

SISU Heritage INC.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Embarrass Town Hall 2 - 4:00 p.m.

Our Mission: “To enhance the Embarrass region by preserving & sharing its unique culture, climate and history.”

President Marlin Bjornrud greeted a crowd of approx. 60 people. With copies of handouts, he highlighted the activities of 2023 and future 2024 plans which the SISU Heritage organization pursues and supports.

Treasurer, Cindy Scherer presented copies of the proposed 2024 budget which the attendees reviewed. Motion by Tana Johnson to accept proposed budget, second, Gary Rantala, MC.

A white ballot for the election of board members **David Pike, Linda Koskela, and new volunteer member Dan Alto accepting terms on the SISU Heritage, Inc board.** Motion by Marlin B., second Gary R., MC

Mickey White accepted to continue being our St. Louis County Historical Society Board Representative, which there are six affiliates. Motion by Ron Sutton, second Dave Lislegard, MC.

Mickey White reported the current membership: **145 – 33 Lifetime.** She was available to register new members for a fee of \$10., also to renew memberships.

Featured speaker, Meteorologist & local historian Dave Anderson, serving our Northland with 31 years of experience captivated a large crowd of guests with narratives on his Finnish roots being a Native of Ely, with family from Babbitt and Tower-Soudan. He shared his expertise on forecasting weather and even prepared a future story about the SISU Heritage and Embarrass region by interviewing audience attendees. **Stay tuned!**

On February 12, 2024, with a vote via E-Mail a motion was made by Tom Sheehan to approve LHB to complete Phase 4 of the Seitaniemi Homestead architectural construction. The motion was approved with a majority (six votes) of the board.

Door Prize winners: Mike Boyd, Janet Eicholz, Marcea Kauppi, Chuck Neil, David Pike, Jon Salo, Geary Shaw, & Verna Sutton Congratulations!

Refreshments and Visitations continued after the meeting.

Respectfully, submitted by Secretary, Linda Koskela

SISU Heritage Inc.

Monthly Mtg. - March 2024

Present: Pat Heikkila, John Kinnunen, Dan Alto, Mickey White, Cindy Scherer, Marlin Bjornrud, David Pike, Linda Koskela

Guests: Roberta Pike. Marti Kinnunen

President: Marlin B. welcomed new board member, Dan Alto to the SISU Heritage, Inc,

1. January minutes were reviewed with corrections in #6 spelling of record & Shannon Concert soloist in place of Sharon & February's Annual Meeting minutes six affiliates, instead of seven. Motion to accept John K., second David P., MC.
2. January and February's financial reports were reported, reviewed and accepted, motion by Pat H., Second Mickey W., MC.
3. Membership increased with **5 new members registering during the SISU Annual Meeting.** Current membership 146 – 34 lifetime.
4. A letter of resignation was read from Heather Mahoney resigning from the SISU Board. She kindly offered to continue helping with the SISU face book page. The board thanks Heather for her years of service, to finish her term a new person will be appointed.
5. **Shannon Gunderson Concert at the Apostolic Lutheran Church is on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 3:00 pm.** Admission \$10 - \$8 for SISU members 12 yrs. And under free.
6. A request for a wedding at the Apostolic Church was received from Chevelle Schroeder. A motion by Mickey W., second Dan A. to request a rental fee of \$100 with a \$150 deposit and verification of insurance for Friday, June 20 & Saturday, June 21, 2024, MC.
7. **A Finnfest Bus Tour of 35 People will be in Embarrass on Thursday, July 25, 2024 from 9:30 am.-3:30 pm.** The tour includes stops at the Nelimark Homestead, the Seitaniemi Housebarn, an ethnic lunch at the Timber Hall, before leaving Embarrass, they will tour the Apostolic Church.
8. Motion by Dan A., second Pat H., to have Nelimark Artisan, Marti Kinnunen purchase 2 cases @ \$70 of Personalized Embarrass coffee mugs by Ivory & Sage, MC.
9. National Sauna Day activities duties, which will be held on June 8, 2024, were reviewed and will be finalized next month.

Submitted by Secretary, Linda Koskela

The next meeting is Monday, April 15, 2024 @ 6:30 pm. At the Embarrass Town Hall.

BUYING OR SELLING A PROPERTY?



BUYING - SELLING - LAKESHORE - RECREATIONAL - COMMERCIAL

Julia helped us buy our lake home. She made the experience so easy and stress free. She is quick to respond, professional and very knowledgeable. We recommend Julia whole-heartedly!



- Free property valuation and marketing plans
- Drone, video and 3D virtual tours
- Dedicated team of realtors



Julia Maki
REALTOR-BROKER-OWNER

julia@bicrealty.com
218-780-0315
www.bicrealty.com
www.juliamaki.net



Trapline Liquor

4897 Hwy 21

218-984-BYOB (2962)

trapneliquor@outlook.com

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Sunday 11 am – 6 pm



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4897 Hwy 21 - - - 218-984-2962

Monday – Saturday 8am-10 pm, Sunday 11 am-6 pm



SNACKS:

Pop, Juice
Energy Drinks
Candy, Chips

GROCERIES:

Milk, Eggs
Bread, Butter
Italian Bakery
---lots more!

READY TO GO:

Sandwiches
Ice
Coffee

ATM

Lottery
Cigarettes
Tobacco Products
DNR Licenses
Landfill Cards

FROZEN ITEMS:

Ice Cream
Pizzas

OTHER:

Cleaning Supplies
Baking/Cooking
Items
Toilet Paper
Misc Personal
Care
Some Auto Fluids



EMBARRASS REGION FAIR ASSOCIATION MEETING

MINUTES

(pending approval)

March 14, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

Board members present: Tana Johnson (Chair), Sarah Wallert-Ramponi (Vice Chair), Preston Tripp (Treasurer) Laura

Stella (Secretary) William Ramponi, Zane Beaton, Carissa Smith, Tracey Muhvich

Attendees: Carl Peterson, Bonnie Meier, Jerry Meier, John Munz, Michelle Gamble, Janine Patten, Sue Beaton, Nina Wycoff, Katie Erickson, Jared Wright

Call to order: A quorum of Directors was present. The meeting was called to order at 6:34.

Minutes: February 8, 2024, meeting minutes were approved by email on 2/29/24 by unanimous consent. Per Association bylaws, all Directors signed a written consent affirming their votes. The written consent will be filed with January minutes.

Chair Update (Tana) – There were no questions about the Chair update provided to the Board via email on 3/7/24.

The following request was made by ERFA to the Township of Embarrass at their annual meeting on 3/12/24 and approved at the regular meeting on 3/13/24:

- The township will provide a donation of \$750.00.
- Approved the use of the walking trail for the 5k Run/Walk on Saturday, August 24, 2024.
- Approved the use of the baseball fields for a softball tournament to be held Saturday, August 24, 2024, and Sunday, August 25, 2024.
- Approve the beer sales license for the Babbitt Lions Club for 2025
 - The 2024 license was approved at the annual meeting in 2023.

The Board had requested the use of 12 white plastic tables belonging to the township. The township advised they did not have that many tables but would approve the use of 5 wooden tables. Eric Garman volunteered 6 tables from the Fire Hall and may also have personal tables that the Fair can use for the weekend. The Embarrass Region Fair Association is grateful for the continued support of Embarrass Township.

The Timber Hall will be rekeyed in April to improve security and prevent unauthorized access. Stronger key control procedures have also been implemented.

A proposal was brought to the board to begin each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Beginning each meeting with the Pledge will help the Board and Association maintain a sturdy foundation, promote community enrichment, and attract and maintain committed volunteers. Tracey made a motion to begin each meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Zane seconded the motion. The motion passed with 8 yeases and one abstention.

Committee Updates:

Nominating & Governance Committee (Sarah) - There were no questions on the committee update provided to the Board via email on 3/7/24. The Association now has 3 Certified Food Protection Managers (CFPM) which is a required aspect of the 21-day food license. One of the CFPM's already has all the required training and the other two will complete their training by the end of March. It was agreed that 3 is a

good number of CFPM's as comparable and larger organizations have only 4.

The CFPM that is already trained observed the March pancake breakfast and made some recommendations to ensure compliance with licensing guidelines. The Board will follow through with purchasing the recommended items.

After all the CFPM's have been trained, a meeting will be held to review kitchen rules to ensure consistent enforcement at all events.

Tana announced that she is nominating Carissa to take over as Chair of the Association beginning in May so that she can focus on the grant work.

Finance Committee (Preston) - There were no questions on the Treasurer's report provided to the Board via email on 3/5/24.

The Association is on budget and there are no concerns about spending at this time. The raffle permit checks have cleared the bank. Preston advised he is still working to draft a policy regarding an Association Credit Card. Tana confirmed that Charles Zeugner was hired as the Association's CPA.

Tana advised that she is meeting with insurance companies the week of March 18 to get quotes and ensure the best rates and protection.

Strategic Planning and Grant Committee (Zane and Tana) - There were no questions on the Strategic Planning update provided to the Board via email on 3/12/24 or the Grant update provided to the Board on 3/7/24.

Tana reports that we are still waiting to hear if we have been approved for the Lake Country Power grant. The application for the IRRR Culture and Tourism grant was accepted. IRRR will provide \$15,000 and the Association will match \$15,000, for a total of \$30,000. Items purchased or work done under this grant will be paid 50/50 between the grant and the Association. The \$15,000 that needs to be provided by the Association has already been worked into the budget. This grant will allow us to undertake a variety of work, including landscaping, signage, facility repairs/improvements, and equipment purchases. Benches are going to be made to allow for additional seating outside, with the grant helping to purchase the materials. Jared stated the Carpenter's Training Facility in Duluth may be able to help with the building of the benches. He will check into this. The Association will also offer a sponsorship program for the benches to help cover costs.

The Association has moved to the second round of review for the University of Minnesota Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC) grant. Zane made a motion to accept a resolution to apply for the ESMC grant. Sarah seconded. The Resolution passed unanimously.

Zane reports Starlink is the best option to provide internet access at Timber Hall. This is a justifiable expense for several reasons and is already worked into the budget. Installation should be completed before May 1. William made a motion to proceed with purchasing and installing Starlink internet. Tracey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There are plans to provide a Porta-potty for the arena area from mid-May through the end of September. The projected cost of \$106/month includes delivery, weekly cleaning, and the provision of hand sanitizer. This is not currently in the budget, but Preston advised the cost can be covered. Carl will speak with the Saddle Club to determine if they would be willing to split the cost with the Association. William made a motion to move forward with renting the porta-potty for the summer. Tracey seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The objectives list for the DSGW work was reviewed. The list is currently ordered by priority of the work. This is an active document so

things can be reordered if needed. Tana will meet with DSGW to discuss these objectives the week of March 18.

Event Committee (Carissa) – There were no questions on the Events Committee update provided to the board via email on 3/9/24. 254 pancake breakfasts were served in March. The remainder of the books from the book swap are now in storage and need to find homes. The DAV will return for the April pancake breakfast.

A recap of the Winter Festival was provided. 102 meals were served by AEOA, about 35 people participated in Bingo, and about 27 kids played games and watched the movie. The biggest hit was the boot throwing competition. [There are volunteer spots available for the upcoming Easter Event.](#)

Rentals were also discussed. Jerry Meier has been handling rentals, but not that he is no longer on the board, the board needs to authorize him as a signatory to enter into rental contracts on behalf of the board. William made a motion to appoint Jerry Meier as the signatory/authorized representative of the Association to enter into rental agreements on the Association's behalf. Preston seconded. The motion carried unanimously. Jerry agreed to write up a checklist of his duties for dealing with rentals and the rental contract will be reviewed and updated as needed.

The next committee meetings are on 3/19/24 and 4/2/24 at 6 p.m.

Fair Committee (Tracey) – Katie Erickson and Nina Wycoff will be the Little Miss coordinators this year. They advised that flyers for Little Miss be distributed to local schools to raise awareness of the program.

Fair sponsorship letters have gone out and music for Friday (Honkytonks and Hangovers) and Saturday (Swamp Donkey).

Jared spoke on behalf of the Demo Derby and asked to increase their budget. They would like to add classes and increase payouts for all classes. High Octane Media has also been in touch and could draw additional participants. To compensate for the increase in budget, the Demo Derby is raising entrance fees, pit pass fees, and gate fees. They would also like to consider a PowerWheels class, but Tana needs to discuss this with the insurance companies. Tracey made a motion to increase the Demo Derby budget. Sarah seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

New entrance and exit plans were discussed. Traffic flow and pedestrian safety would be improved with a better strategy. A plan to use the southernmost gate for Mud Run traffic was also discussed. Four loads of gravel would be required to make that entrance serviceable. The Mud Run organizers are asking to keep an additional dollar of the gate fees to increase payouts and draw additional participants. The organizers have said this would also allow them to make additional changes and updates to the event to continue to grow it. Zane made a motion to allow the increase for the 2024 fair and reevaluate for the 2025 fair. Laura seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Fair Steering Committee meeting is on 4/4/24 at 6 pm.

Maintenance Committee (grounds and building) (Jared) – The shelf that was purchased for the kitchen cannot be installed as it will not fit the studs. A smaller shelf was sent by mistake when the larger one was ordered, and that one can fit the studs so it will be installed.

The Timber Hall was identified as a place where a Life Flight helicopter would need to land for an accident on Hwy 21. The emergency response vehicles that came to the Hall to support Life Flight ended up doing some damage to the blacktop behind the building due to ground conditions. Tana will talk to the insurance company to determine if a claim should be made for the damage or if paying out of pocket is the better way to go. Jared will get quotes for the blacktop repair.

Jared will work with Charlie Fowler to get some maintenance assistance from the STS crew. Zane confirmed he no longer needs to coordinate this work with the township. Jared advised this is correct.

Jared will get quotes for new lawn mowers.

Volunteer Committee (Laura) – There were no questions on the committee update provided to the Board via email on 3/1/24. Laura asked all present to review a list of the volunteers who we do not have addresses for. Volunteers thank you cards will go out by the end of the month with a \$5 discount at either Trapline Liquor or the Tower Café. Five volunteers have let us know they will no longer be volunteering. Thank you, letters will be sent to them along with a short survey asking how the volunteer experience could have been improved for them.

Marketing Committee (Carissa) - There were no questions on the committee update provided to the Board via email on 3/9/24. Items and ads for April Flying Finn should be sent to Carissa by March 20.

Arena Committee (Carl) – Carl advised the arena committee is beginning to work on a partnership with the Saddle Club to develop policies and procedures for arena use. The next arena committee meeting will be held before the end of the month, with the date still to be determined. The arena committee is also working on a proposal for arena updates. Tana reminded everyone that anyone who rides at the arena must sign a waiver and it must be kept on file at Timber Hall. Carl agreed.

Review Action Items (Tana) – Action items were reviewed. Attending the Township annual meeting and hiring a CPA were marked as completed.

Miscellaneous: None

Public Comments: None

Committee updates will be on file at Timber Hall with the March 14, 2024, meeting minutes.

Laura made a motion to adjourn the meeting. William seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Stella, Secretary, Embarrass Region Fair Association

[To put an item on the agenda or for copies of the minutes, contact the Secretary at \[info@embarrassrfa.org\]\(mailto:info@embarrassrfa.org\).](#)

Feedback – Contact Tana Johnson or any board member. Let us know what you like, dislike, and where we can improve. Contact Tana at 218-269-1331 or tanajohnson@ymail.com. Email the Board: info@embarrassrfa.org. Timber Hall Event Center, PO Box 83, Embarrass MN 55732

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS at the TIMBER HALL EVENT CENTER:

- Indoor Walking – Mondays and Wednesdays 5:00pm-7:30pm
- Tae Kwon Do – Mondays and Wednesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm
- Easter Egg-Stravaganza – Saturday, March 23 11:00am – 1:00pm
- Event Committee Meeting – Tuesday April 2 @ 6:00pm
- Pancake Breakfast - Theme: Spring Fever, Saturday, April 6, 8-11:00 am
- Strategic Planning Committee Meeting – Tuesday, April 9 @ 6:00pm
- ERFA Board Meeting – Thursday, April 11 @ 6:30pm

Timber Hall Event Center

Events:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Event Committee Meeting 6pm	3	4	5	6 Pancake Breakfast 8am-11am
7	8 Indoor Walking and Tae Kwon Do 5pm-7:30pm	9 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting 6pm	10 Indoor Walking and Tae Kwon Do 5pm-7:30pm	11 Association Meeting 6:30pm	12	13
14	15 Indoor Walking and Tae Kwon Do 5pm-7:30pm	16	17 Indoor Walking and Tae Kwon Do 5pm-7:30pm	18	19	20
21	22 Indoor Walking and Tae Kwon Do 5pm-7:30pm	23	24 Indoor Walking and Tae Kwon Do 5pm-7:30pm	25	26	27
28	29 Indoor Walking and Tae Kwon Do 5pm-7:30pm	30	MAY 1 Indoor Walking and Tae Kwon Do 5pm-7:30pm	2	3	4 *LAST* Pancake Breakfast (until fall) 8am-11am

Embarrass Transfer Station



7530 Koski Rd
Embarrass, MN



Hours of Operation

Thursday

10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday

12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m

POSTAL NEWS



Embarrass MN Post Office

4878 Hwy 218-984-3027

Pickup/Retail Hours:

Monday-Friday 7:00am-11:00am

Saturday 7:00am-9:00am

Lobby is open 24 hours for those with post office boxes at this location

Timber Hall Event Center



Indoor Walking at the Timber Hall

Free and open to all!
Must have indoor shoes.
Mon & Wed 5pm – 7:30pm

KARATE NORTH
TAE KWON DO

Classes available
Monday & Wednesday
Beginners 5:30 - 6:30 PM
Colored Belts 6:30 - 7:30 PM

4855 Hwy 21 - Embarrass, MN 55722

For more information contact
William (218) 730-3884

Spring Fever

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

APRIL 6TH 8-11AM

Adults \$7
Kids (6-10) \$4
Kids 5 & Under Free

Timber Hall Event Center
4855 Hwy 21 - Embarrass MN

Thank you

We would like to thank all our amazing volunteers for the efforts put in to make this Association a success!

Watch for a card in the mail during April with a special Thank You gift.

In Honor

Donate blood in honor or memory of someone at the May Blood Drive!

Signup at:
www.mbcherohub.club/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/72240

TEACHER APPRECIATION

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

MAY 4TH 8-11AM

TEACHERS EAT FREE!
ADULTS \$7
KIDS (6-10) \$4
KIDS 5 & UNDER FREE

Timber Hall Event Center
4855 Hwy 21 - Embarrass MN

Interested in planning or collaborating on events? Email info@embarrassrfa.org to get involved!

*** OBITUARIES ***

Kurt Lee Meyer, 65

Kurt Lee Meyer, 65, of Pike Township, passed away with his children by his side on the morning of Feb. 24, 2024, at Essentia-Duluth. Kurt's children would like to make a special thank you to the staff at Essentia for the care and comfort provided. A celebration of life will be held at The Shack on Hwy 169, with the date and time to be determined. Condolences may be sent to PO Box 444, Walker, MN 56484 or a donation can be made to a charity of the donor's preference in memory of Kurt.

If you knew Kurt, you couldn't help but notice the impact he left on everyone who knew him. He was a true cowboy his entire life. Kurt was a talented truck driver, a hard worker, and a very creative and inventive handy man. He loved to tinker on things around his farm and took pride in his work. Children were drawn to him and his silly, fun spirit. Kurt had a great karaoke voice and could dance the night away. He enjoyed time with family and friends, and loved to have a good time.

Kurt is survived by his three children, Kyle Meyer, Jessica Stahl and Jennie Meyer; several grandchildren; and sisters, Denise Bischoff and Linda Fitch.

He was preceded in death by his father, Frederick Meyer; mother, Beverly Meyer; and brother, Kieth Meyer.

Eugene F. Korpi

Eugene Francis Korpi, 70, of Embarrass, died on March 3, 2024, at his home. Arrangements are pending with Ziemer-Moeglein-Shatava Funeral Home of Aurora.



ARROWHEAD BOOKMOBILE

Hwy 21 and Hwy 135

April 17

The Bookmobile offers print books, cookbooks, large print books, DVDs, audiobooks and video games. For further information on the Bookmobile or Mail-A-Book services, contact the Arrowhead Library System, 5528 Emerald Ave., Mt. Iron, MN 55768, 218-741-3840, see us on Facebook or check our web site at www.alslib.info.

Offices in Aurora, Babbitt & Ely



Check www.zupnorth.com for listings

Our agents offer 90+ years of industry experience and are available by appointment, 24 hours a day, seven days a week!

Contact any of our hardworking agents!

Andrea Zupancich, Broker, GRI, CRS, SRS, RENE, CRB

Norma Jean Jofs, Assoc Broker,

Sara Powell, Kim Borgeson GRI, Beth Rykken,

Harry Drabik, Misty Merhar, Nikki Stangland,

Joe Rasmussen, Sheri Israel GRI, Jody Bauman,

Jodi Nyman AHD, Chessican Olson,

Lisa Poppenhagen, or Kay Collier. Here to serve YOU!

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
5088 Hwy 21, PO Box 76, Embarrass
218-984-2037

hopelutheranembarrass@gmail.com

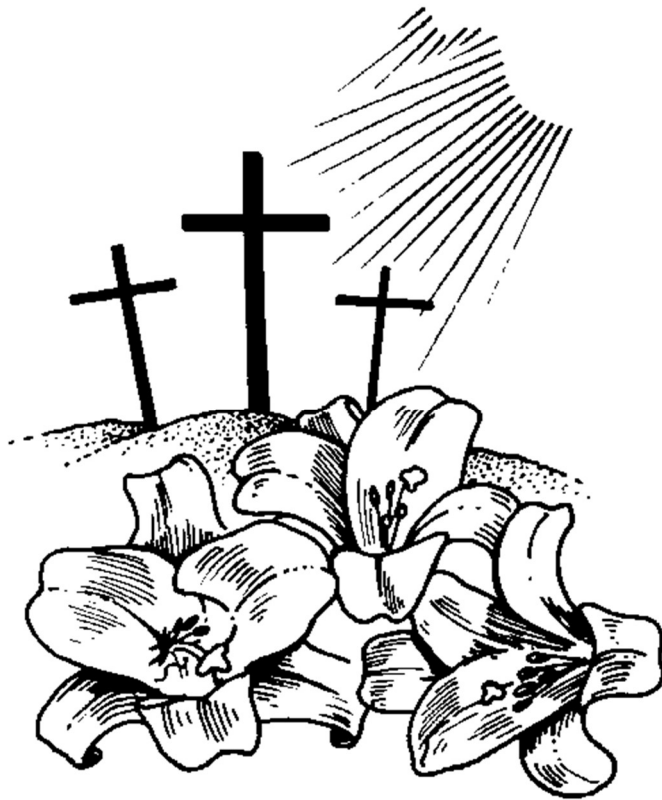
Pastor Christina Forsythe

Office hours

Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.

Services begin at 10:30 a.m.



PIKE APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.apostoliclutheran.org

6997 Oberg Rd (on Hwy 169)

Services at 10:30 a.m.

Communion – First Sundays

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

5606 E Taylor Rd, Embarrass
218-984-3402

www.efreechurch.com

E-mail: marlinb@efreechurch.com

Sunday

Family Bible Classes, 9 a.m.

Family Worship, 10 a.m.

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.

Kids on the Rock – 4:00 p.m.

ENGAGE Youth Ministry – 6:30 p.m.

Meetings:

Couples Night Out. Saturday, April 6, 6:00 p.m.

Matt Hoffland Concert. Sunday, April 7, 10:00 a.m.

Women's seminar. Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ministries Meetings – Sunday, April 14, 11:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, April 14, 8:00 a.m.

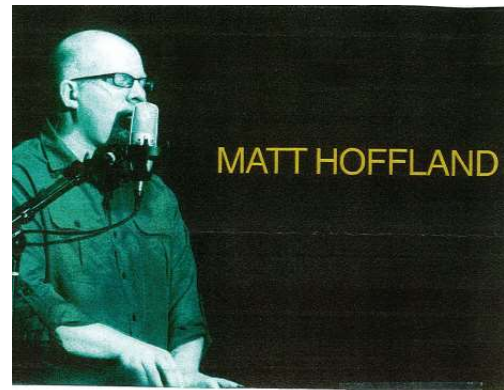
Sermons:

April 7: Matt Hoffland concert

April 14: "Christ is All"

April 21: "The Apostle's Prayer"

April 28: "The Pre-eminent One"



IN CONCERT

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
OF EMBARRASS

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

10:00 A.M.

2024					Feb. 23 12/46	Feb. 24 0/20
Feb. 25 12/39	Feb. 26 10/36	Feb. 27 24/52 trace sn trace pc	Feb. 28 -8/32 trace sn trace pc	Feb. 29 -10/8	Mar. 1 -8/28	Mar. 2 22/52
Mar. 3 28/48	Mar. 4 25/42 pc .03"	Mar. 5 9/37	Mar. 6 9/39	Mar. 7 14/40	Mar. 8 15/40	Mar. 9 12/32
Mar. 10 4/35	Mar. 11 9/46	Mar. 12 26/61	Mar. 13 20/59	Mar. 14 19/53	Mar. 15 19/51	Mar. 16 23/45 trace sn pc .10"
Mar. 17 12/30 sn .30" pc .01"	Mar. 18 12/21 trace sn trace pc	Mar. 19 12/32 trace sn trace pc	Mar. 20 7/35 trace sn trace pc	Mar. 21 2/21		

2023			Mar. 1 6/35 sn .20" pc .02"	Mar. 2 -17/19 sn .60" pc .05"	Mar. 3 -18/27	Mar. 4 2/37
Mar. 5 -4/38	Mar. 6 1/42	Mar. 7 7/38	Mar. 8 6/39	Mar. 9 25/36 sn .20" trace pc	Mar. 10 19/36 trace sn trace pc	Mar. 11 10/30
Mar. 12 16/25 sn 3.70" pc .33"	Mar. 13 -9/20 sn 2.40" pc .08"	Mar. 14 -15/28	Mar. 15 -14/34	Mar. 16 22/42 pc .04"	Mar. 17 5/31 snow 3" pc .24"	Mar. 18 5/15 sn 2.50" pc .03"
Mar. 19 4/24	Mar. 20 -4/41	Mar. 21 -6/30	Mar. 22 -3/31 snow 4" pc .37"	Mar. 23 11/35 trace sn trace pc	Mar. 24 -4/36	Mar. 25 -5/43
Mar. 26 2/42	Mar. 27 2/39	Mar. 28 0/25	Mar. 29 -1/20 sn .80" pc .04"	Mar. 30 -10/26	Mar. 31 -10/39	