

LAWRENCE NATURE CENTER

MINUTES MARCH 24, 2010

Attendance: Chris Altomari, John Gaston, Rick Dutko, Linda Townsend, Terisita Heron, Pam Mount, Lisa Ilaria, Pepper Evans, Steve Groeger, Helen Dutko, Anne Demarais, Sue Hermann, Carol Nicholas,
Guest: Evan Halliday and Mrs. Halliday.

Old Business:

Eagle Project:

Evan presented the drawings of his Eagle Scout proposal to build book shelves and a storage box in the library. The committee made 2 suggestions and approved the plan. Steve Groeger will write a letter in support of the project. Evan hopes to be finished by the end of May 2010.

Donation:

Steve reported that Mary Jane Trimmer's lawyer called and was concerned the money was not being put into a 501-c3 account and may not be used by the Lawrence Nature Center. Steve assured her that the Nature Center Trust account is only used for the nature center.

Native Plant Garden:

Rick Dutko reported that the native garden project is well underway. He and his boys spread the mulch in front of the house to kill the grass. Plants will start to arrive the third week of May and the second batch in June. Planting dates will be announced at a later date.

Earth Day:

- Carol Nicholas reported that 6 groups have signed up for tables; the Mountain View Blue Grass Band and KOPOW Jazz Band; Wild Animal show around 2:30; guided hike at 1 pm. Carol and Steve will follow up this week with the remaining groups we have not heard back from by phone and email.
- Clean up day scheduled for April 10th, rain date April 17th to prepare the property for Earth Day. SAVE will also work on invasive species that day.
- Main Street Artist group wants to get free rain barrels from Bethlehem PA. and have a painting activity at Earth Day to promote water conservation. They will provide barrels and paint. We provide the PR and space. Pam is helping to make the arrangements.
- Katie Barnett from DEP has a traveling rain barrel display and Rick will contact her to see if she wants to come and talk about water conservation at Earth Day.
- Pepper's troop will be making a plant/tree identification game as a Silver Award project and scouts will present it at Earth Day, and leave identification cards for future center programs.
- Sustainable Lawrence will have "Project Porch" free lights to distribute.
- Rick Dutko offered to do a 1 pm guided hike of Drexel Woods.

- Rick suggested putting the 9 bird houses up on Earth Day. We still do not know who built the houses so contact Rick if you know.
- Pam Mount and Rick will work together with our two logo designs and make a decision on buying a banner or table cloth in time for Earth Day.
- Carol and Terisita Heron will get the PR out this week.

Family Night:

Anne has 5 slots left open and hopes to have the schedule ready to hand out at Earth Day.

Library:

- A Girl Scout troop will do a book drive and make book plates saying Lawrence Nature Center.
- Anne asked what kind of loaning system we should have ie., honor check out, no check out, etc. The group felt the books should be used at the center and that they would not be returned in an honor system. Books bought by the grant will continue to be locked up in the garage and used under supervision.

Adult Programs:

- Teresita is waiting to hear back from a professor expert on finches to see if can talk one evening.
- Teresita is working on a music festival idea for the fall '10.
- Rick will do a power point presentation May 19th at 7:30 at the nature center on "Sour Land Mountain Preserve", and then on May 22nd, will lead a hike at 10 am at the Sour Land Mountain Preserve. Meet at the Nature Center at 9 am if want to car pool, or at the parking lot of preserve at 10 am. Directions are on the website.

Education:

Sue Hermann pointed out that programs and education are closely linked and we may benefit from consulting the Princeton On Line group that helps non-profits improve their websites for free.

Scout Projects:

Rick outlined the upcoming scout proposals, and members signed up to be advisors to the scouts. See Rick if you are interested in being a mentor to a scout.

New Business:

- Rick has been asked if a couple can use the property for their wedding this summer, no date known yet. He will discuss further with Steve.
- Sustainable Lawrence has a "Living Long Campaign" to encourage people not to use lawn pesticides. Carol will follow up and see if the Nature Center can be certified.
- Chris Altomari presented a proposal to the Township to develop several rain gardens for public demonstration. Her committee selected the nature center, behind the well house

as a site, and the Township approved the idea. She will see if a committee member would like to do a demonstration of rain gardens at Earth Day.

- Pam will see if she can work with the town engineer to develop a master plan for the bus loop, parking, and property lighting. It is understood that there is no money to do the projects now, but need the plan to progress with other projects.
- Anne will be leading the 20th Annual Greenway Hike, March 21st, 1:30 on Princeton Pike across from the recycling center.
- The September meeting will be postponed to September 15 due to Rosh Hashanah.