

LAWRENCE NATURE CENTER COMMITTEE

Minutes of January 13, 2010 Meeting

Attendance: Sue Herrmann, Cristie Butler, Mike Erdie, Amy Hnasko, Tahiria Smith, Linda Townsend, John Gaskins, Rick Dutko, Teresita Heron, Anne Demarais, Steven Groeger, Lisa Ilaria, Madeline Price, Carol Nicholas.

Guests: Life Scouts Ryan Smith, Eliot Nagele, Dean Sawasky.

Property Projects:

- Three scouts requested ideas for Eagle Scout projects. Ideas discussed were building a bridge over the trenches on the trails, a sign at entrance saying Lawrence Nature Center, a vernal pool, develop an interpretive trail, develop an orienteering trail with geocaching, rain garden.
- Michael Van Clef, native plant specialist, visited 12/17/09 to consult on developing a native species garden. He is preparing a plan to present to the board. He suggested putting down compost to help prepare the soil. Rick will contact the Community and Save to plan a work day in February/March.
- Rick and Chris submitted a \$25,000 grant proposal to WCAS December 15 to improve trails. Grant approval notifications come out September 10.
- Rick met with DEP and will work with township/school board to apply for wetland permit for boardwalks on final piece of land on Blue trail near Meadowbrook Park. Meeting is scheduled for February 1st at township.
- Rutgers University students presented master plan for improving community, and suggested improved walking links through Drexel Woods to connect communities. Plan is on GEPNA website.
- Mail is not being received at the mailbox. It may have to be moved to the Fernwood cross-street.

Programs:

- Saturday Beginner Birding Program Jan 16 and Feb. 13th 10-12 will be led by Rick Dutko and Teresita Heron. Registration required. See website for details.
- Stonybrook Watershed will run a one week program at the LNC during Spring Break in March. See website and Recreation Department Program book for details.
- Earth Day will be Saturday April 24th, 1-5. Invitations will be emailed and posted in February, and Teresita will work on publicity in March. Please call Carol if you have any ideas you would like to see at this year's event.
- Lisa and Teresita suggested ideas for Adult Education classes that they are working on: butterflies, discover trails in Lawrence, how to create a spiritual garden, herbal gardening, recognizing wild mushrooms, basic birding.
- Rick will lead a field trip to the Sourland Mountains May 22nd "Rare and Endangered Species Hike". Time and transportation TBA.
- Rick would like to lead a bat survey for students over the summer at the Brearley House. More info to follow.
- Rick would like to put plywood down in various areas of the property to do a herpetology survey this spring to fall.

Other Business:

- Joan Wood offered to help to develop a library. Pepper Evans's girls scout troop offered to help do a book drive, sort, label, catalog books. More details to follow.

- Steve purchased a digital projector for the LNC. Carol and Rick will work with him to see where the best placement will be.
- Steve said small groups may register with the Recreation Department to rent the LNC for small birthday parties - \$25.
- Carol will go the ANJEE dinner to represent the LNC, as Mary Jane Trimmer is being honored.
- The purchase of a computer was discussed and decided to hold off for now.
- The purchase of display cabinets, file cabinets, library shelves was discussed. No decisions were made.

Upcoming Environmental Events Elsewhere:

- Clean Energy Program at the Police Station, January 15, 8 am.
- WCAS Jeff Hall presents "Down at the Shore" January 18, 8 p.m., Pennington School.
- Solar Energy Program MCL February 4, 7 p.m.
- Rain Barrel Workshop by Sustainable Lawrence, March 18. See Sustainable Lawrence website for details.
- Green Expo March 19, 20th at MCCC. See Sustainable Lawrence website for details.
- LIS Science and Invention Fair March 20.
- Pineland Short Course, March 20. See Rick for details.