

## LAWRENCE NATURE CENTER COMMITTEE

### Minutes of June 9, 2010 Meeting

In Attendance: Steve Groeger, Anne Demarais, Linda Townsend, John Gaskins, Teresita Heron, Rick Dutko, Sue Hermann, Carol Nicholas

Guests: Mike Powers, Elliot Nagele, AlanTakasugi

#### Garden Update:

- Rick Dutko and 10 volunteers planted 600 native plants in front of the house on Sunday. Thanks to Pam for roto-tilling the soil beforehand.
- Rick will finish the trellis and bench in the near future.
- Workday scheduled for June 14th is cancelled due to delayed plant shipment.
- Probable workday may be scheduled around July 14th.
- Rick will thank Greg Whitehead and Public Works for their continued support and prompt mulch delivery several times in preparation for the planting.
- Teresita and Carol weeded the butterfly garden. Teresita will speak with Mr. Vereen to see if he is interested in building a fence around the garden.

#### Eagle Projects:

- Elliot will build 140 foot long boardwalk along blue trail after the fallen tree. He will research how much it will cost to raise the boardwalk a couple of inches so that water will flow under and not create a dam effect and will get back to John with the dollar figure.
- Alan presented his drawing of boardwalks connecting Meadowbrook and Drexel Ave. He and Rick will research if cement footings is necessary or recommended in this area.
- Rick said there is about \$500 left over for trail improvement that can be split between the 3 scout projects.
- The width of boardwalks was discussed and most agreed that 3 feet wide is best and safest.

#### Summer Programs:

- Anne has distributed the flyer and has found hosts for all the weeks. She is preparing a list of things the Host should do to help make the evening successful.
- Anne has designated \$20 for refreshments each week and asks Hosts to help acquire refreshments each week.
- Teresita has started publicizing on School Backpack, PTO, newspapers. The group suggested other list serves and Mike Powers offered to promote it on WZBN when he next speaks.
- Teresita had organized a summer reading program with the Community Center at the LNC one day in July.

#### May 22nd Hike

- Rick led a successful hike with 50 people to the Sourland Mountain Preserve. Fun was had by all.

#### New Business:

- Ben Muzi says The Community would like to do a volunteer project.
- Carol suggested the butterfly garden fence. Teresita will see if Mr. Vereen and The Community can collaborate on this together. Rick also suggested trail clearing in Drexel Woods. Anne also suggested Greenway trail work.

- Rick had SAVE review the Herp Boards and they found one salamander, and several field mice housed under the boards. They will go out again tomorrow with a new group of students from SAVE. They will keep a journal of their findings.
- Rick and Carol met with Brian and Jeremiah to review a good spot to put a rain garden. This will teach the public about ways to amend moist areas around the house. A spot beside the French doors and out 12 feet was selected. A grant is being submitted in June to cover the cost of building the garden. Carol also requested an information board teaching people about Rain Gardens.
- Sue expressed interest in working on the library committee.
- Anne and Sue asked to join the By Laws committee. Teresita, John, Sue, Anne and Pepper will meet to continue working on the by-laws. As a lawyer, Mike recommended keeping the document simple and short providing flexibility in a young group.

**Interesting Community Programs:**

- Master Gardeners will present program on Deer Proofing this Saturday the 12th at 10 am, Federal City Rd.
- Pollinator Picnic is at the Mercer County Water Conservation District on June 24th 4-7 pm.