

Lawrence Nature Center Minutes

February 9, 2011

Attendance: Anne DeMarais, Sue Herrman, Mike, John Gaskins, Teresita Heron, Carol Nicholas, Tahirih Smith, Madeleine Price, Alan Remde, Helen Dutko, Ilene, Rick Dutko, Linda Townsend, Dave Bosted, Steve Groeger, Heidi D'Ascoli
Guests: Scout Garret Folk, Mr. Folk

Earth Day Update:

- Carol met with Sustainable Lawrence and hopes to have the participant invitations go out next week or the following week.
- Current proposed speakers will be Wildlife Center animal show, Rutgers Coop. Rain Garden talk, Rain Barrel talk, Productive Lawn Gardens, Bee Hive talk, trail hikes.
- Tahirih will contact Home Depot or Lowes to be sponsors and possibly have a display.
- Carol will contact Willis Greenhouse to see if can do a plant sale.

501-c3 Update:

- Carol will work with Mary Bennett (accountant) to complete the necessary forms hopefully for a spring submission.
- The board approved an amendment to the current by-laws to reflect a rule that the 501-c3 requires if the Friends of the Lawrence Nature Center organization dissolves. It will now specify that any funds left over "will be donated to a local 501-c3 or Lawrence Township, as the board determines."
- Questions arose if we should have a state non-profit status first and then get the federal status. Rick and Carol will look into it.

Scout Project:

- Garrett Folk presented his Eagle Scout proposal for building a fence around the butterfly garden. He hopes to have a fund raiser Pasta Dinner to raise the necessary \$750. Proposed plans were approved by the board.
- Teresita has been in contact with Zach Weaver who built boardwalks at the Lawrenceville School for the nature center. He is short of funds by \$200. The board requested he come to the board meeting to present his project.

Property Beautification:

- Alan Remde presented a beautiful sketch of the front property and how to improve the appearance. Issues addressed were port-a-potty screen, moving port-a-potty, better signage, improved lighting, plantings along roadside, porous pavers for parking area.
- Steve will speak with Richard about sign options that are smaller than usual township signs. He will look into Route 206 signs that were ordered last fall.
- Steve will speak with assistant engineer Brenda Kremer to see if the bus loop has been drawn out.
- Improving the ground/plants around the kiosk and building a path from the kiosk to the white trail was discussed.
- Steve is working with PSEG to have a tree removed and a "dusk to dawn" light installed this spring.

Website:

- Steve, Anne, and Sue will work on improving the website appearance and how to keep it current.

Upcoming Purchases:

- The board decided that a laptop would be helpful to store pictures, improve audiovisual presentations, etc.
- Anne proposed having a purchasing committee who will do the research for purchases. John volunteered to research laptop, Teresita-microwaves and kettle/hotplate, Anne - locking cabinet to store expensive items.

Upcoming Programs:

- Steve updated the website with all the spring programs.
- Rick will add a new program April 16th, 1 pm "Scatology - Scientific Study of the Unmentionable". He will need to purchase supplies for this talk.
- Teresita is working on publicity for all the programs which is becoming more challenging. She found an online space to also advertise on.
- Anne suggested we have a display of Herb Lords nature photography. Rick will check with Herb; Carol will check with Greg to see if display boards are still available. Possibly will combine this with an Open House in June. More to discuss in the future.
- Sue suggested a summer solstice event June 21, possibly with drumming. More to discuss in the future.

School Outreach:

- Rick and Sue will partnership with a parent volunteer group at LES who are writing a grant to PSEG and ANJE to promote environmental learning and sustainable practices. The board voted and agreed that this would be a great opportunity to have teachers come to the nature center to learn about native plants and how to teach the info to children.
- Grant is due March 15th and they will learn by April 15th if they are awarded money. Program would start August '11.
- Rick will talk at the LHS Science Academy on 2/11/11.
- Sue volunteered to have a table at the Ben Franklin science night 2/23.