

# Lawrence Nature Center Minutes

## March 9, 2011

Attendance: Ilene Miller, Rick Dutko, Heidi D'Ascoli, Lisa Ilaria, John Gaskins, Teresita Heron, Carol Nicholas, Alan Remde, Anne Demarais, Linda Burroughs, Sue Hermann, Pam Mount.

### By-Laws:

- The group voted and approved an amendment to be added to the by-laws under the heading of Board of Trustees #5. It will now read "Trustees must disclose any financial interest in the vote under consideration. If the board by majority vote finds a conflict of interest, the Trustee may not vote on the matter."
- The official beginning of the Friends of the Lawrence Nature Center will be established as the garage opening ceremony back in April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

### Port-a-Potty:

- The placement and need for a port-a-potty was discussed. A new location was determined. We know it was used during Earth Day and Family Night, and will check if it was needed during summer camp. It costs the town \$50 per month. We will keep it for now and check with Chad about the summer, then make a decision if we should keep it in the future.

### Programs:

- Angelo Chianese will do a drumming circle/camp fire Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm to celebrate summer solstice.
- Herb Lord will do a photo/art show Friday June 10<sup>th</sup> combined with an Open House.
- Rick will do a Turtle program March 26<sup>th</sup> and is looking for turtle cookie cutter. Contact him if you have one to lend. His request for \$20 for refreshments was approved.
- So far Summer Family Night has booked Campfire Stories, Composting, Art, Green Neighborhood, Insects, Pollinators. A flyer is being prepared.
- Jeff Hoagland from Stonybrook Watershed contacted Rick as he would like to do a teacher training workshop at the nature center. We have money left in the education grant to fund teacher training. Carol will contact the Science supervisor again to see if there is any interest.

### Events:

- Lawrence Township Community Foundation has planned a forum March 19<sup>th</sup>, 9-1 pm at the Lawrenceville School Clark music room. They would like the Nature Center represented. Carol may be available to go.
- Ben Franklin Science Night March 30<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm. Rick, Sue, Linda will have a table, and Rick will do his turtle talk. We will try to have flyers prepared for this event.
- Mother Nature Festival has 8 speakers plus the animal show booked. So far speakers will be Jeanne Mroczo Master Gardener, Dave Bosted on home winter gardens, John Emmons on community gardens, Brian Friedlick and Jeremiah Bergstrom on rain gardens, Matt Kieffer on front yard gardens, Teresita and Pam on compost Display, Americor volunteer on building a rainbarrel, Tahirih on Bees. The participant invitations went out last week. Still not sure if the Mountain View band will come. Sustainable Lawrence is talking to Lowes to sponsor the event and provide free plants

to sell. Pam asked if the township committee called the Green Team could also help sponsor the event. Carol and Teresita will work on updating the flyer so it will be ready next week.

- Stoneybrook Watershed is sponsoring Stream Watch Clean up on April 2, 3 and 9, 10. Teresita has contacted Rider, TCNJ students to see if they want to volunteer in this event.

#### Purchasing:

- Anne reports a locked cabinet for valuables will be around \$200.
- John reports a laptop will be around \$500-\$600, software \$100, backup \$100.
- Teresita reports coffee urn will be around \$30-50.

#### Property:

- Rick reports a new sign post and repairs for the Drexel Woods sign will be around \$112. He and Alan will work on this while we wait for the official Township brown sign. Steve will speak with Richard K. about making the official sign that reads Lawrence Nature Center at Drexel Woods. Established April 25, 2004.
- Steve showed a drawing of the proposed improved parking/ bus turn. The first phase would accommodate 13 cars. The second phase (loop) will accommodate 19 cars. Phase one will cost \$5000.

#### Website:

- Anne and Sue will work with Steve to improve the home page. The group would like to add Ricks wonderful articles, the latest being "March Madness". Teresita will send the article to different on line venues.
- The group discussed with Steve having an email for the nature center. Steve will speak with the township web person to see if this is possible, and then someone would be designated to follow up on inquiries.