

Lawrence Nature Center Minutes November 9, 2011

Attendance: Linda B., John, Helen, Rick, Carol, Sue, Dave, Pam, Teresita

Guests: Girl Scout Delia Monken, Boy Scout Ryan Persichilli, Janet Kane – Lawrence Shade Tree Committee

Scout Projects:

- Delia presented her finished wood duck box. She made a flyer and will also make a YouTube video on how to build a bird box. She will meet with Rick this Saturday to install the box 10 feet up the tree near the creek. She will also install a predator guard.
- Ryan presented his proposal to build two kestrel boxes on the Notre Dame High School property, and build two kiosks for the nature center meadow. Total cost will be \$1500. The group discussed what type of material should be on the inside of the Plexiglas to post displays. Ryan measured the size of the existing kiosk on the property, and the group discussed what the rules should be regarding uniformity of design. Carol and Rick will follow up with Ryan with simple modifications so that he can complete his project by February.

Treasurer Report:

- Linda T. was unable to attend, but reports that there is \$470 in the account. The committee approved her using that fund to send the \$300 check to Herb Lord for the two pictures.

Programs:

- Rick ran two successful bat programs. Forty-two attended the public program, and 25 scouts attended the second program.
- Rick lead 60 kindergarten students from Eldridge Park School to the LNC on November 1st.

They read Stellaluna and found a salamander and worm on the trail to compare. Lauren Madden

- had three TCNJ education students assisting Rick and Anne. Rick will send pictures to Steve to post on the website.
- The author of “Out of the Woods” will not be doing her program in December.

Education Committee:

- Rick made 4 new brochure boxes made from Trex material and will install a few at the trail heads.
- The committee is working on a generic brochure that will list the annual LNC events by month. Also it will list a menu of programs by subjects and age appropriateness.
- Pam suggested that we consider extending the summer program longer than 2 weeks. Invite other groups to use the property for camp. Teresita and Pam will follow up with Steve.
- Tahira would like LNC involved with the **Green Mapping Grant** recently awarded by Sustainable JERSEY. Working with Montgomery, Hillsborough, Princeton, and Lawrence, they will map out green spaces, historic sites, points of interest, bike trails, natural resources, and try to link all the communities together. There is a planning

meeting at the Police station, November 30, 7 p.m. For more information go to www.greenmapping.org

- Linda T. researched traveling shows that could be hired to run “fancy” programs at the nature center. The Philadelphia Zoo on Wheels costs \$245 for a 45 minute program. The FLNC group would also like to see programs about the animals local to NJ.

New Business:

- GEPNA is promoting a Merchant Market Fair November 12, 12-5 extending from Willis Greenhouse to Candella's.
- Janet Kane from the Shade Tree Committee started to map out the trees around the LNC yard. Several species were not identified but the committee will keep working on it. Rick will buy labels for the trees. The Shade Tree Committee would like to plan a lecture on trees, tree selection, tree maintenance, in the spring. The group discussed if it is better during Earth Day or as a separate event. No decision was made.
- Rick would like to buy bird seed for the LNC. The committee approved Steve spending \$209 for 150 pounds of various seeds.
- Rick would like to run two beginner bird programs at the LNC January 21, one for adults and one for youngsters.
- Kids have vandalized the boardwalks with paint, and moved the Harris benches. They are building a BMX bike course. Nate moved the bench back to the proper location and bought \$60 chain. The group recommends that the police be informed. The committee approved Steve to reimburse Nate for the chain expense. Pam will see if she has a cordless sander to remove the graffiti from the boardwalks.

Board of Trustees:

- Carol will be stepping down as Secretary. Please consider filling this position.
- All other positions remain filled, though the committees would happily accept more volunteers.
- Pam Mount asked to join the board.
- **Regular Committees** are: Education, Programs, Publicity, Trails, Grounds + Trees, Scouts
- **Committees that “meet as needed”** are: Mother Nature Festival, Bylaws, and 501(c) (3)

Upcoming Calendar:

- November 21, 10-12 p.m. Program on NO Fracking, at Patriots Theatre, War Memorial, Trenton
- November 28, 7 p.m. Education Committee Meeting, at LNC
- November 30, 7 p.m. Green Mapping meeting, at Lawrence Police Station, Education room

Calendar of Events 2012:

- January 21, Beginner Birding Program - LNC

- April 22? possible book reading “Out of the Woods”
- April 28 Commiversity Day - Princeton
- April 29 Jubilee
- May 6 Diversity Culture Day
- May 13 Mother's Day
- Possible days for Mother Nature Festival are April 21, May 5th, or May 12th. No decision was made. Other community events on these dates will be checked.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Nicholas, Secretary