

Lawrence Nature Center Minutes October 12, 2011

Attendance: Steve, Anne, Sue, Teresita, John, Linda T., Rick, Helen, Carol

New Business:

- Author of “Out of the Woods”, Katina Makris , would like to have a reading/book signing at the nature center between December 8-11. The book is about lyme disease. The committee felt it was an important public health initiative to support and Carol will ask the author’s representative what date works best for her schedule.
- Rick will attend the WCAS meeting October 17th to present information about the Holden Grant we received.
- Community Town Conversation is at LHS October 17th, 6:30 pm, auditorium.

Property:

- Mercer Park Northwest would like to give the Eileen Katz bench to the nature center. Rick will follow up and the committee will find a location for the bench at another time. Carol will try to speak with Jen Rogers, Mercer County naturalist to learn more about the bench transfer.
- Teresita will lead a group of volunteers from the Foundation Academy Charter School of Trenton to improve the meadow, butterfly garden, and trails on October 15th. Their arborist will survey the trees in the meadow and see if there are any species worth saving. Rick pointed out that many holes left in the meadow from digging up trees could damage the mowing equipment, and Teresita will relay this information to the volunteers. John will see if there is a part of the trail that the group could adopt and improve over the year.
- Steve said the township will not approve building a screen for the port a potty. The committee supported his idea of removing the port a potty, and returning it for special events.

Committees:

- The committee voted to allow Steve to order the computer using the specs that John submitted many months ago. The nature center trust fund will pay for it.
- Sue had her first Education committee meeting in September and the next one is booked and being advertised for October 24th.
- Rick spoke to EPS PTO and met 3 Kindergarten teachers interested in nature talks. He will follow up with teachers and PTO. Will encourage them to consider an end of the year picnic at LNC.
- The committee discussed paying presenters ie. “The Lizard Guy” in the future with a small cover charge required for participants.

Donation:

- Anne received the \$2,000 check from the PACF and it will be entered in the township nature center trust fund.
- Linda received a \$50 donation from the Ben Franklin School for the spring Science Fair presentation Rick, Linda B., and Sue did. She will send a thank you note.
- There was a lot of mail in the mail box. The committee discussed if someone should be checking the box regularly or if it should be sent to the Recreation Department mailbox. No decision was made.

Programs/Events:

- Anne manned the table at Community Day
- October 10th Rocks and Fossils led by Sue and Linda T was well attended – 31 attended of which 18 were children.
- October 15th – Teresita leads a Charter School group of volunteers
- October 19th LHS “Anti-Bullying Program”, 7 pm, auditorium. Volunteers in schools must take this course in order to volunteer in township schools.
- October 26th – Rick will lead a bat program in the nature center. Pre registration is necessary – maximum 75 people.
- October 27th – Rick will lead a bat program for a cub scout group
- December 3rd – Teresita will lead a wreath making workshop.