

Lawrence Nature Center Meeting Minutes October 14, 2009

Attendance: Lisa Ilaria, Larry Beaber, Rick Dutko, Pam Mount, Dave Bosted, Nick Bosted, Pepper Evans, Steve Groeger, Carol Nicholas, Madeline Price, Teresita Bastides-Heron, John Gaskins, Anne Demarais, Jerry D'Ascoli, Tahirih and Brett Smith.

New Business:

1. Nicholas Bosted would like to build a fence and information plaque for the bee hive as his Eagle project. He will talk with Tahirih, research other bee resources, and present a plan to the nature center committee.
2. Two other scouts wrote letters requesting Eagle project ideas. Carol will email them back with committee's suggestions of :
 - a. Trail improvement, interpretive trail, boardwalks, tree labeling, stream improvement.
3. Steve Groeger will see if a wetland permit is necessary to add boardwalks near the Eldridge Park School entrance. Rick has a contact at the DEP, and will see if it will be a long process.
4. Pam has a contact who is in charge of Watershed Ambassador program. Committee approved idea of having an Ambassador at the center in the office to run programs. She will follow up and report back.
5. Pam has a friend who runs Mentor Power, an environmental educational enrichment program and she would like to use the nature center. The committee asked to see Mrs. Quinn's proposal and will discuss further.
6. Steve had a request from a Girl Scout troop to build a fence around the butterfly garden. The current netting is dangerous for small animals. The committee approved the removal of the net and installation of a new fence. Steve will follow up.
7. The High School Environmental club SAVE would like to do community service projects on the property. They are interested in developing the vernal pool idea. Carol will call Heather McNeil to find out how MCSWCD did their vernal pool, etc. and follow up.
8. Bret Smith will be meeting with Rutgers School of Architecture and Planning, to do community planning. Carol will email him a request for a parking/traffic flow pattern proposal.

Old Business:

1. The deck plan was discussed again. Steve says there is \$18,000 in the account. Many members liked the concept of a deck, a couple did not, many like having a place to sit down in preparation for a class, many are afraid the open design will lead to accidents. Carol will continue to look for compromises that will meet most criteria.
2. The group discussed the importance of developing a board, recruiting more members to share the committee jobs, and whether we should become a 501-c3. It was decided to put forth a slate for a term November to May 2010 and develop job descriptions and by laws in time for a vote in May 2010. The following people volunteered:
 - a. President: Rick Dutko
 - b. Vice President: Lisa Ilaria
 - c. Treasurer: Anne Demarais

- d. Secretary: Carol Nicholas
- e. Members at Large:
 - i. Dave Bosted
 - ii. Pepper Evans
 - iii. Madeline Price

Anyone interested in joining the Board or heading a particular committee, please email your interest to Carol in time for the November 10TH meeting.