

Eagle Nature Trail Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2015, Eagle Municipal Building

Meeting called to order by Chair Jean Weedman at 4:05 p.m.

Present: Jean Weedman, Mary Jenks, Lynette Neuburg, Ted Bryant-Nanz, Gwen Bruckner, and local resident

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by L. Neuburg to approve the minutes with correction to current amount in the Treasury. Second by M. Jenks. Motion passed.

Public Comments: local resident donated buttons with a picture of a Monarch butterfly and the words Eagle Nature Trail to the committee. She suggested the buttons might be a good fundraiser for the trail. This resident also showed the committee two oil paintings she had done of Monarch butterflies. T. Bryant-Nanz showed the committee a marsh violet he found near the ephemeral pond and said there were quite a few of them in the area. Jean commented that violets are the larval food for the fritillary butterfly.

There was a discussion of trail security with input from G. Bruckner of the Eagle police department. L. Neuburg asked if it was possible to collect \$80 in damages from the vandals that destroyed the signs and flyers. G. Bruckner will look into it.

Prairie Burn Synopsis: It was successful and uneventful because there was little material to burn. There were 12 volunteers who donated a total of 41 hours to this project.

Signage Progress: After meeting with Mike Hoff at P-E HS, Jean reported that the high school students have begun making the trail entrance signs, based on designs that Jean and Tom modified for the trail.

Scheduled Help: There will be a "seed throw" with the Eagle Elementary STARS group on April 23. Any member of the committee who can help would be appreciated. There will be another planting event in May and the garlic mustard Pull-a-thon is planned for May/June as well.

Marketing: Jan Suhm of Suhmer's Saloon would be interested in working with us on fundraising events. If we decide to participate in the upcoming Eagle Rummage Sale, we could use their parking lot free of charge. A local resident suggested we make sure the Eagle Nature Trail is included in the Eagle Business Associations' handbook. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 30 which will be held at Suhmer's Saloon. Other ideas discussed included putting flags on Main Street with our logo and website address on them as well as putting information about the trail on the message board in front of the Library. The Library website already includes information about the Trail. Include information about the trail on the Town's new website.

Coming Events & Activities: School Activities: On April 23, children from Eagle Elementary will participate in a seed cleaning and distribution activity at the trail. Jean purchased swamp milkweed, lobelia and cardinal flower plants and plans to have the children plant those at a later date.

Joint Tour with Eagle Historical Society: a local resident contacted Marcia Carmichael, Historic Gardens Coordinator at Old World Wisconsin, about having someone talk at this event about plant dyes used by early settlers. Karl Kaphengst, one of their volunteers, is willing to do this. His phone number is 262-594-6333. We will need to contact him regarding the time and place.

Invasives Work: We will again be hosting a garlic mustard Pull-a-Thon sponsored by SEWISC in May. Last year our team pulled 1417 pounds—more than 350 pounds at the trail site. Our sponsor paid \$1/lb. In the pull-a-thon, one half of the money goes to SEWISC, one half comes back to the trail. Jean suggested making it a competition this year by getting teams together to pull and donate a specific amount, i.e. \$0.50/pound. G. Bruckner suggested asking the Fire Department to sponsor a team.

Other Suggestions: Brainstormed ideas for fundraising to include: make/sell buttons, sponsor a Shred-Fest, sell food at various Eagle events throughout the year, participate in the Eagle rummage sale, sell prairie plants, make items like small planters out of concrete, and create note cards using prairie flowers. G. Bruckner suggested doing something for National Night Out on August 4. Perhaps we could combine that with a night walk along the trail. Jean volunteered the Trail to participate in a genetic study of milkweed conducted by the College of William and Mary. Sample collection kits will be mailed to us.

Finances: No change. The trail committee is financially independent of both the Village of Eagle and the Alice Baker Library. Our funds are achieved through donations from individuals and businesses and grants that we apply for.

Adjourn: Motion made by L. Neuburg at 5:30 p.m. to adjourn. Second by J. Weedman. Motion passed.

Next meeting: May 19 at 4 p.m.