

Eagle Nature Trail Committee Minutes

Tuesday, July 21, 2015, Eagle Municipal Building

Meeting called to order by Chair Jean Weedman at 5 p.m.

Present: Jean Weedman, Mary Jenks, Jon Hoefakker, Lynette Neuburg, and local resident

Approve Minutes: Minutes approved with one correction: remove the cost of making the benches. In future minutes, Jean will add a paragraph about the source of funds for the Eagle Nature Trail. As of today, all money for development and maintenance of the trail has come from donations. The trail is financially independent of the library and the village.

Wild Ones tour recap: Tour went from 10 to 11 a.m. Jean did a presentation and had photos of the history of the trail. It was a great success with 25 people attending. Refreshments were provided by Jean and Tom. No benches were sold.

Coming Events and Activities: 1) Joint tour with Eagle Historical Society. This tour will take place on August 1, from 1-3 p.m. L. Neuburg volunteered to help at this event. Revised brochures will be ready; thank you to Mary Sweezy at Chase Bank for the printing.

2) National Night Out will be held August 4 from 5-8 p.m. Jean will bring benches to sell and displays.

3) Invasives Work: Two groups from P-E HS--NHS have helped so far—July 13 and 15. Several more groups are scheduled to work this summer. We also need help with staining the boardwalk.

Other topics: J. Hoefakker expressed concern about rainwater coming off the school's parking lot, and the erosion it is causing. L. Neuburg suggested contacting a professional landscaper to help with a design to resolve this problem. J. Hoefakker suggested getting 3 or 4 bids and asking if they would be willing to donate a portion or all of their time and materials. Jean will get estimates from several local contractors.

On June 24 Jean met with a representative of UWM's Center for Community-Based Learning, Leadership and Research at the trail. We are approved to be part of the Community-Based Learning, Leadership and Research resource group. In order to get student volunteer help, we will need to be present at UWM in September.

Jean sent a note to the Palmyra-Eagle School Board thanking Michael Hoff and the wood working classes at the high school for building the two entrance signs that Jean and Tom designed and Aldo Leopold benches.

On June 26, Jean and a local resident collected and sent samples of milkweed leaves and bugs collected from her property and the trail's prairie to the College of William and Mary for their study. On this day there was an incident with knives at the trail. The matter was referred to the police.

M. Jenks thanked Dawn-Marie Staccia for the beautiful photographs she has taken of butterflies, bluebirds, frogs and flowers found on the trail which are posted on our new signs.

J. Hoefakker reported he has tentative plans to place the eagle sculpture on top of the tree on Saturday, August 8. This is dependent on whether he can use a local resident's bucket truck on that date. J. Weedman will check with the sculptor to make sure sealant used on the eagle is a long lasting one. Two shrubs will be moved if they are in the way of the bucket truck. J. Hoefakker donated a bat box for the trail and will research on where the best location for it should be.

Finances: We currently have \$2,458 in the treasury which includes the \$1005 we made from the garlic mustard pull-a-thon. We received an in-kind donation from Home Depot that covered \$100.00 for stain and brushes for the signs and boardwalk, brushes, small rollers, and ten 1 gallon containers of perennial native plants, worth \$70.00.

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.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 18 @ 5 p.m.