

# Eagle Nature Trail Committee Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2015, Eagle Municipal Building

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

Present: Jean Weedman, Mary Jenks, Jon Hoefakker, Nancy Wilhelm, and local resident

**Introductions:** Jon Hoefakker is the new representative from the Village of Eagle Board. Nancy Wilhelm is a member of the Library Board.

**Approval of Minutes:** There were no additions or corrections to the April 21 meeting minutes. Motion made by M. Jenks to accept the minutes as read. Second by J. Weedman. J. Hoefakker abstained. May meeting was not held.

**Public Comment:** Local resident and J. Weedman asked if the committee can meet when there is no quorum. N. Wilhelm will discuss this with the Library Board.

**Garlic Mustard Pull-A-Thon Summary/Results:** There was a total of 2010 pounds pulled! On June 2, 32 (33# bags each) bags were filled. Eagle Elementary School --with the help of four teachers, two adult helpers and students from 4K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades-- filled 17 bags! In another area, five adults including J. Ziegler and four UW-M students worked 3 hours and filled 15 bags. On June 6, an adult team of five pulled 18 bags. On June 9, 12 boys plus 4 adults from the Boy Scouts and Cub Scout of Troup 54 filled 15 bags. On June 18, Tom and Jean Weedman and Dawn-Marie Staccia filled 2 more bags for a grand total of 67 bags=2010 pounds! At a sponsored rate of \$1/pound, the trail will receive half of the amount or \$1005. Before the Pull-A-Thon, Jean sent each participating classroom a "Weed Warrior" packet with a poster depicting garlic mustard as a bully: after the event she presented each child with a Weed Warrior sticker/badge. Photos of events shared.

**Signage Progress:** The trail entrance signs were placed on June 18 and 19 by Mike Hoff, Tom and Jean, Dawn and Jeff. Plants were transplanted at the same time. The total cost of materials for the signs—wood, hardware, etc.—was \$442. Jean and Tom designed the signs based on a model found in an English park. Future plans are to post information on the Monarch butterfly life cycle and milkweed plants on the signs and other nature-at-the-trail information throughout the seasons. Jean is seeking bids for the metal sign at the top portion of the sign which will say Eagle Nature Trail. The signs for each of the World Trade Center trees will be engraved on metal and put on a post mounted in the ground. Bob Younger carved an eagle to put on top of the dead tree. Jean showed the committee a picture of it. Discussion ensued about how to secure it to the top of the tree. J. Hoefakker will research this.

**Marketing of Benches:** The Palmyra-Eagle HS woodworking class made six benches. The Committee decided to sell each bench for \$100 to include a card with information on Aldo Leopold. Jean will make benches available on July 11 for the Wild Ones Tour and August 1 for the joint tour with the Eagle Historical Society. There was a brief discussion about selling the benches as a kit, but it was decided not to do this as preparing the components is so labor intensive that the cost would not be reduced by much. There's also the issue of quality: how does the bench look if put together by someone with little background or no proper tools. A suggestion was made to sell benches at Maxwell Street Days in Mukwonago. No one volunteered.

**School Activities:** On June 22, there was a planting project with the Young Investigators Class (K-2) in the cordoned off area of the trail across from the amphitheater. The Science in Summer group planted two areas of wetland plants from Agrecol to include swamp milkweed, blue lobelia, and cardinal flower.

Eagle Elementary School has included the Eagle Nature Trail as a selling point in their promotional card sent to home owners in the district. Example shared.

**Other:** Jean showed the committee a new business card for the trail with a QR link to Alice Baker Library and information about the trail. She also mentioned an article in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* about the "jumping worm" which is a new invasive species threatening our area.

## Coming Events and Activities:

- 1) Wild Ones Tour:** The Wild Ones Group will tour the Eagle Nature Trail on July 11 at 10 am. Any board members who can help will be much appreciated.
- 2) Joint Tour with the Eagle Historical Society:** This event will be held August 1. The theme is Art of Flowers. The prairie is a display on the type of flowers the pioneers found when they arrived in Wisconsin.
- 3) Invasives Work:** There will be five NHS groups from P-EHS coming this summer to pull invasive species. This is the fourth year they have volunteered to help at the trail. Other projects this summer include continued work on staining the boardwalk and moving native shrubs.
- 4) Jean met with the coordinator of the Center for Community-Based Learning, Research and Service at UW-Milwaukee on June 24. The UW-M representative toured the trail and interviewed Jean about services needed. Volunteers may be available to help us starting in the fall. A presentation to students at UW-M is required of us in September.**
- 5) Milkweed Study:** Jean needs help to collect bugs and milkweed leaves at her house and at the trail to send to the College of William and Mary. A local resident offered to help on Friday, June 26 at 9 a.m.

**Finances:** Current amount in the Treasury is \$2350.67. (Signage cost not yet deducted/paid.) 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 6:30 p.m.

Next meeting: July 21 @ 5 p.m.