

Eagle Nature Trail Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 2015, Eagle Municipal Building

Meeting called to order by Chair Jean Weedman at 4:00 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by L. Neuburg to approve November 2014 minutes with correction of clerical error. (No Jan. or Feb. meeting.) Second by J. Weedman. Motion passed.

Public Comment: Ted Bryant-Nanz undertook a survey of the trail to include the woodland and ephemeral pond areas. Committee members discussed the hydrology of the trail and surrounding area as it relates to regeneration of the ephemeral pond. Ted offered to continue surveying plant species throughout the year.

Needs for the coming year: We need help. Jean expects that the NHS students will help again this year. Lyne will follow up with the Boy Scout leader who offered his troop to help. Jean gave a presentation at the Eagle Lions Club meeting, and they also plan to help us this year. Jean reported that a total of 400+ hours of work on the trail were donated last year.

Signage Progress: Jean presented an example of a possible sign design to be placed at both ends of the trail. She met with woodworking teacher, Michael Hoff at P-E High School about making the signs, and he was enthusiastic. Estimated cost of materials for both signs is under \$500. The signs will be built after we decide on a logo. Jean researched ideas for a logo on the internet and presented them to the committee. A local resident offered to work on the design of the logo, to include a Monarch butterfly and liatris, and present it at the April meeting. L. Neuburg made a motion to approve spending up to \$700 for two signs. Second by M. Jenks. Motion passed.

Scheduling Events and Activities for the New Season:

1] Jean turned in a burn plan to the fire department and went before the village board to get approval for a prairie burn at the trail. Tentative dates are April 3-10 to include the weekends before and after those dates. School will not be in session that week. However, the DNR has issued a burn ban because of very dry conditions so this may affect the plan.

2] Jean has planned a planting project with school children for the end of May. She purchased prairie plants from Agrecol. She will also plan a date for throwing seeds in the prairie collected by students last fall.

3] Wild Ones will tour the prairie on Saturday, July 11 at 10 a.m. Jean will need help from committee members in hosting this event and answering questions from attendees.

4] The joint tour with the Eagle Historical Society will be August 1. The theme is Art of Flowers. We will plan the logistics of this activity in May/June. The committee discussed several fundraising ideas, i.e. invite crafters to sell flower-themed crafts; ask high school students to make butterfly, dragonfly and frog garden stakes to sell, sell prairie plants/seeds. Local resident will contact Old World Wisconsin about getting someone to discuss dyes that can be made from local plants.

5] Should we choose a specific day each month for working on removal of invasives? No decision made.

Finances: We currently have \$2513.87 in the Treasury, most earmarked for signage project.

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.

L. Neuburg made a motion to adjourn at 5:30 p.m. Second by M. Jenks. Motion passed.

Next meeting: April 21 at 4 p.m.

The fate of animals is of greater importance to me than the fear of appearing ridiculous; it is indissolubly connected with the fate of men. -Emile Zola, writer (2 Apr 1840-1902)