

Manchester Parks Foundation Board of Directors Meeting
February 10, 2014 – Manchester Town Hall

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Members Present: Chair Sharon Hughes, Treasurer Marcia Bogash, Secretary Donna Davis, Ellen Frey, Ellen Rugemer, Barbara Trump, Justin Watts, Vince DePalmer, Robin Fishpaw.

Volunteers Present: dedicated volunteer Tom Smith.

Guests Present: Councilperson Debbie Howe

Call to Order: by Chair Sharon Hughes at 7:10 PM.

Minutes: A motion was made by Justin Watts to accept the minutes for the January meeting. Motion seconded by Marcia Bogash. Minutes accepted as presented.

Treasurers Report by Marcia Bogash: balance of \$7,262.61. Total deposits of \$1,043.00. Total expenses of \$259.79

Ellen R. researched costs for a laptop computer and software that can be used by the Treasurer for Board financial business. Estimated costs for laptop, Windows and Quicken software is \$550.00. Suggestion made By Justin Watts to purchase a printer as well as the laptop. After a brief discussion, the motion to purchase the laptop, Windows and Quicken software, and a printer was made by Justin W., seconded by Ellen R., and passed.

Naturalists Report: No report. Sharon Hughes. reported that Sherry Fisher Cole changed the March 14 nature program to March 21. She will be receiving an award for her work at Kennedy Kreiger on the 14th. Sharon has indicated the change on the website schedule.

PR Report: Marcia Bogash reported that she has been assisting Steve Israel, and Denny and Barbara Trump with the Archeology exhibit. it will be on display at Town hall and then at the Library from April 1 to 30.

Programs:

Springfest– Ellen Frey and Marcia Bogash reported that \$900.00 in donations have been received for Springfest. Ellen F. will be sending thank you notes to the benefactors. She has sent out many participant requests and has received one back from Steve Israel. Requests sent out for participants include: archeology, Master Gardeners, Reptile Wonders, food tent, Fire Dept. Police, County, Christian Farmers Outreach, face painting, Quality Deer Management, jumping rabbits, Forestry Board, paper-making, girl scouts, petting zoo and pony rides, recycling, plant sales, McDaniel bees, FireWise. Ellen F. will secure the moon bounce and hand-washing station

The Board discussed inviting the scout that constructed the compost bin to talk about the construction process. Ellen R. shared the composting flyer the scout developed. Robin Fishpaw volunteered to assist the scout by offering composting tips. She may also bring her worms. Steve Allgeier will be asked to do a bug talk and provide hand-outs on butterfly gardens, composting, and herb gardens.

A motion was made by Ellen Frey to hire a magician. Cost will be \$275/hour. The motion was seconded and after some discussion, passed by the Board. Vince DePalmer made a motion to offer Reptile Wonders a \$50.00 gift. Reptile Wonders has been providing entertainment at SpringFest for many years at no charge to the nature center. The motion was seconded by Ellen Rugemer and passed.

Justin Watts secured the 5th grade bands from Ebb Valley and Manchester Elementary. They will play from 1 to 1:30 PM. Justin W. requested to purchase new fishing rods and items for the fishing game at a cost of approximately \$110. The rods we have are broken. Ellen R. made a motion to purchase the new rods. The motion was seconded and passed. Justin is working on the Kids Corral activities.

Sharon H. mentioned that the SpringFest Master “to Do” list is in the info binder at the Nature Center building. The Board discussed possible tactics to guide attendees to scheduled activities (nature walks, presentations, etc..) using strategically placed sandwich boards, loud speaker announcements, roving announcers, etc...

Bocce Ball – Vince D. reported that the August tournament will be held on Aug 2 instead of Aug 16. He had to cancel planning meetings due to snow.

Facilities:

Pond – The kick-off meeting for the planning of the pond study will be 10 AM, Wed. Feb. 12 at Town Hall.

New Building Project – Meeting to discuss septic with Ed Singer of the County Health Dept. will be 8:30 AM, Wed., February 19, at the Town Hall. Tom S. provided a history of petition letters received in the past from concerned citizens that did not want to see the cedar near the nature center building taken down. This may be of concern when designing the new building and feels every effort should be taken to protect the tree from construction damage. Sharon H. stated that the building plans are very preliminary. The Board made note of the concerns and will address them as planning for the building continues.

Maintenance- Tom Smith reported that Steve Israel may ask the Town if he can install some test pits near the pond. The Steiner mower is still at the maintenance shop awaiting repairs. There are at least two dozen large trees, branches and debris down across the trails as a result of the ice event last week. Tom will mention to Steve Miller that some man-power assistance and heavy equipment from the Town may be needed to clean up. Memory Grove trees also experienced some damage.

Observatory – CQNC was not chosen as a site for the Observatory.

New Business:

Facility Usage Request: Ellen R. reported on the facility use request received from the Cub Scouts to utilize the park for a district-wide scouting event and camp-out, tentatively for May 17-18. The event may attract 100 people, though not all of those will camp overnight. Ellen R. told them no ground fires allowed (only in the established fire ring), must provide their own water, pay for port-a-potty maintenance, and no access to the building. It may also be necessary for the scouts to secure an additional port-a-potty. Vince made a motion to allow the camping event. After some discussion, the Board agreed to allow the event if permission is granted by the Town. The motion was seconded by Robin Fishpaw and passed. Debbie Howe will present the motion at the next Town Council meeting for their approval and notify Ellen R.

Treemendous Trees: Donna Davis notified members in an earlier email about treemendous trees available at no cost. Bill Skinner replied and suggested to reserve 20 trees for spring and 20 more for fall and to us the trees around the pond, building, and for replacements needed in the buffer and Memory Grove. Ellen F. made the motion to order 20 trees in spring and 20 for fall. The motion was seconded by Vince D. and passed.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. The next meeting will be Monday, March 10, 2014.

*Minutes submitted by: Secretary Donna Davis
11 February 2014*