

Minutes of the Manchester Parks Board

2015 Feb. 16

Due to inclement weather, the regular meeting of The Manchester Parks Board on February 9, 2015 was cancelled. The Parks Board held a business meeting at the Town Office building on Monday, February 16, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Chair Ellen Rugemer at 7:10 PM. Those in attendance were Board members Ellen Rugemer, Ellen Frey, Barbara Trump, Donna Davis, Justin Watts, Marcia Bogash, Bruce Smith, and Councilperson Debbie Howe.

Review of Minutes: Marcia Bogash made a motion to accept the January minutes. Motion seconded by Bruce Smith and passed.

Treasurers Report: Marcia Bogash provided a written treasurer report. Balance as of January 15, 2015 is \$10,604.27. The taxes for the naturalist position are completed and sent out. Ellen Rugemer said the computer is ready and she will meet with Marcia to complete the Board taxes. Marcia reported that she has received the renewal certificate for the taxidermy mounts. She has not received the foundations tax exempt form yet. Bocce Ball earnings were \$2,576.00 in 2014. This includes proceeds from food and Knights of Pithias donation. Motion made by Justin Watts to accept the Treasurers report. Seconded by Barb Trump and passed.

PR: Marcia Bogash reported that the posters for the Easter Egg Hunt and for Springfest need to be produced and sent out ASAP. Bruce Smith and Ellen Frey will get together to work out the details for the posters. Ellen Rugemer handed out final copies of the "Volunteer Opportunities" brochure she created for the center.

Naturalist Report: Marcia Bogash reported that naturalist Sherry Fisher-Cole is adding two programs for younger children. Marcia would like to work with Bruce Smith to get more information about Sherry's programs into the schools. Marcia recommended that Board members visit during the school's Colonial Day that will take place at the park on May 22. Bruce plans to meet with Sherry this month to work on incorporating white tail deer into her educational programs. He reported that the MD DNR Wildlife and Heritage Division has deer learning trunks available on loan.

Programs: Ellen Rugemer revamped the Easter Egg Hunt information to include emphasis on parents responsibility to watch their children. She also purchased new eggs with attached hinged tops, and stickers. Justin Watts and his family will take care of putting the baskets together.

Springfest: Ellen Frey reported that we have five sponsors, with \$700 in donations received to date. Sandy Miller is a published author and will have a booth at the festival. Ellen F. received the moon bounce contract. The company will charge the same as last year. Ellen also has the raffle permit. Among the numerous confirmed participants: Vicki Wagner PTO 4-H will do the food tent, McDaniel Honey, Brian Crystal Nature Center on the Go (Board agreed to hire him for an active program), Jumping Rabbits, Lisa Green plant sales, Skip Green Astronomical Society, Mr. D's Magic, Ellen Rugemer

crafts, Steve Israel, Bruce Smith- deer, FireWise. Debbie Howe will discuss funding assistance with the Town.

Fishing Clinic/Derby: The Board briefly discussed and agreed to sponsor a clinic and/or derby if a commitment is made and the date can be set early enough for adequate advertising. Ellen R. will make inquiries.

Plant swap: Barbara Trump and Marcia Bogash discussed sponsoring a plant swap at the Nature Center. Ellen Frey made a motion to have a plant swap. Justin Watts seconded. Motion passed. Barbara and Marcia have been maintaining the Postal Park garden as a Master Gardener project. They plan on organizing a monthly “ask a master gardener” booth to disseminate information. They also plan to provide information about the Town and the Nature Center.

Facilities:

Telescope building: Ellen Rugemer has been conversing with Mr. Clark. He suggested that a pre-fabricated shed would be less expensive than a specialized building. This will be re-visited in March.

Tree Damage: Ellen Rugemer spoke to the scout troop about the damage incurred to the trees. The Board discussed the issue. Ellen R. will discuss removal of the damaged trees with Steve Miller.

Old Business: none

New Business: The Board discussed ideas to update the website. Bruce Smith volunteered to assist with the update.

With no other business, a motion was made by Barb Trump to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Motioned passed.