

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

Volunteers Present: Tom Smith.

Guests Present: Steve Miller, Town Manager

Call to Order: by Chair Sharon Hughes at 7:06 PM.

Minutes for October: A motion was made by Justin Watts to accept the minutes for the October meeting. Minutes were accepted as presented.

Treasurers Report by Marcia Bogash: Ending balance of \$7,634.80.

- 2 Marcia received a bill from Henry Hartman Mower Repair to repair the Steiner mower (\$480. labor. \$600. parts), with concerns that the charge seems very high. After some discussion, The Board agreed to pay the bill but to look for alternatives for future maintenance. Marcia will send a check to Hartman. Steve Miller mentioned that the Nature Center may be able to inherit a 2 year old ZTR mower that the Town is presently using. Or, there may be a possibility to include a new mower in the Town budget.
- 2 Bocce Ball tournaments raised \$2,688. Motion was made by Ellen Rugemer to accept Treasurers report as presented. Motion seconded and passed.

Naturalists Report: none.

PR Report: none.

Report by Town Manager Steve Miller: Steve Miller has been very helpful researching possible alternatives for providing water and sewer to the Nature Center. He presented the Board with a Water/Septic Project Overview document he prepared based on his research and his conversations with County representatives. The document outlines existing well information, well and septic requirements, and provides the

next steps that need to be taken by the Board and decisions to be made in order to create a preliminary site plan for the Nature Center.

Steve's research revealed that there is an existing observation well on adjacent Town land that could possibly be used to provide water and that a septic system might pass approval using the "best available technology". Being able to use a well and septic would significantly cut costs vs. hooking up to Town water and sewer. There may also be a grant available to cover 100% of the cost to develop the septic system if the best available technology is used in the design.

Vince De Palmer asked if POS money would be available. Steve Miller said that it is available every other year. The project could be set up in phases, with phase one using POS money for design and phase 2 for construction. The Town can assist with items such as perc tests and other permits. The Board hopes to find a certified environmental engineer that is willing to donate time to assist with the site plan.

Marcia suggested forming a building committee to develop the site plan. The Board agreed. Members are Bill Skinner, Ellen Rugemer, Vince DePalmer, Ellen Frey.

PROGRAMS:

- 2 The Springfest Committee needs to begin meeting again. Justin Watts cannot attend the committee meetings but volunteered to organize the Kids Corral again. Ellen Frey and Sharon Hughes will be on the committee again. Additional members are also needed.

- 2 Tom Smith mentioned that he is still finding plastic Easter eggs about the grounds. The animals tear into the eggs and eat the candy inside. He suggested hiding empty eggs instead. Children can turn in their found eggs for candy or prizes. The Board briefly discussed this and will consider other ideas also at the next egg hunt planning meeting.

- 2 Marcia Bogash and Barb Trump will operate the Nature Center info table again this year during the Manchester Black Friday.

- 2 Justin Watts, Ellen Rugemer, Barb Trump and Donna Davis will present the Nature Center power-point talk during the November 20th Manchester Lions Club dinner meeting.

FACILITIES:

- 2 Marcia thanked Tom Smith for the beautiful job setting the cobblestones around the gardens.
- 2 The Eagle Scout did an excellent job building the compost bins. Barb Trump is putting them to good use.
- 2 Bill Skinner and Barb Trump will work with a scout troop on Saturday, Nov. 16 mulching and weeding around the building.
- 2 Travis and Ellen Rugemer mapped some of the trails using the GPS program “My Hike” on his Smart Phone. (Very Cool).
- 2 Ellen R. inventoried the nature center interpretive bins. She estimates about \$100. worth of items missing. Barbara Trump made a motion to have Ellen order replacement items. Motion seconded and accepted.

With no other business, Ellen Rugemer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. Motion was seconded and accepted.

The Manchester Parks Board does not meet in December. The next Board meeting will be 7:00 PM, Monday January 13, 2014, at the Town Office Building.

*Minutes submitted by: Secretary Donna Davis
19 Nov 2013*