

## Minutes of the Manchester Parks Foundation Board of Directors Meeting - November 10, 2014

**Meeting location:** CQNC building

**Call to order:** 7:00 PM by Chairman Ellen Rugemer.

**Present:** Board members Ellen Rugemer, Justin Watts, Marcia Bogash, Vince DePalmer, Barb Trump, Ellen Frey, Bill Skinner, Bruce Smith. Also present were volunteer Tom Smith, Town Manager Steve Miller and Council member Debra Howe.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept minutes for the October 13, 2014 meeting was made by Marcia Bogash. Motion seconded and passed.

**Treasurers report:** Marcia Bogash submitted a written report with a checking account balance of \$9,160.29. An additional sum of \$1,644.00 not included in the report was received from Bocce Ball profits for a total balance of \$10,824.29. Ellen Rugemer inquired about budget money the Town gives to the Board. Steve Miller said the Board has \$3,000 left in the budget.

Ellen Rugemer has picked up the Treasurers computer. Brooks Rugemer donated Quicken Software. The Board discussed purchasing anti-virus software. Since the computer will not engage the internet, it was decided that the software is not necessary at this time.

**Facilities:** Steve Miller has arranged for the Town to empty the outside trash cans at the park periodically. Ellen Rugemer delivered the new park sign for York Street to the town office. The maintenance folks will install it as soon as they are able. It was decided to keep the front gate closed and locked when the nature center building is not open for activities as there is no volunteer available to open and close it daily. Bill Skinner has scout troop coming this Sunday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at 1PM to spread mulch, remove vegetation

Pond - Bill Skinner and Donna Davis attended the Walnut Pond meeting held at the Town Hall on November 7, 2014. Board members reviewed notes from the meeting. Results from the meeting were discussed. Retrofit Concepts presented by EcoTone were discussed, with emphasis on options #1, #2, and #8. These are the three options those present at the Pond meeting considered to be most beneficial to stream water quality while maintaining recreational amenities of the pond. Bill Skinner made a motion to accept the three options. Marcia seconded. Vote on option #1 – all in favor. Option #2- Discussion: Ellen Rugemer asked where the wetland was going to go. Barb Trump asked who would plant the wetland. We assume the contractor. The Board feels that there may not be enough room below the dam to create a wetland without disturbing the dam. However, the Board would like to see a wetland developed at the location shown across from the pumphouse, not below the berm. This wetland would be for educational purposes as well as water filtration. Option #8 – Discussion: Concern expressed about leaves falling into the pond and interference of fishing if trees are planted too close to the pond. Tom Smith mentioned that the pond already receives leaves from the adjacent woodland. After discussion the Board voted to accept option #1, combined with option #8 with planting the trees a bit back from the pond edge, and option #2 only if wetland construction will not jeopardize the berm-

or a modification of #3 with a wetland only at the pumphouse location ( not at the berm). Bill Skinner will contact Ecotone.

**PR/Programs** : the Board will Opt out of Black Friday participation as visitation last year at activity center location was low.

Marcia Bogash thanked Vince DePalmer and all involved with Bocce. It has been hard work, and very helpful financially. The Board has been able to make major purchases for the center.

Marcia suggested charging the schools \$1/person when they use the facilities and pond for studies. The center no longer receives donations from the PTA. Justin Watts said Pond studies are tied to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. He has contacted both schools about attending one of the planning meetings to review notification and request procedures for using the building and park but they could not find time to put him on their schedule.

**Naturalist report:** Marcia Bogash reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Ebb Valley (teacher Dolly Mersinger) sent a very nice note thanking Naturalist Sherry Fisher-Cole for the visit and lesson they received. She also reported the good news that Sherry plans to stay as our naturalist for 2015. Sherry needs new nets for pond studies. The Board agreed that she should purchase good quality nets that will last longer. Sherry does have a line-item in the budget. She needs to know what the funds are. Marcia Bogash made a motion to give the naturalist a \$1/hour raise. Vince Depalmer seconded. The motion passed.

**Trails:** Tom Smith reported that the trails are in good shape. There is still some clean-up needed from the winter snow storms, some mulching needed in places. Naturalist Sherry Fisher-Cole has had a lot of classes here. Someone took the geo-cash by the trail. Tom replaced it. The Scouts that camped this weekend pulled firewood out from woods and left piles of wood around. Also someone chopped down at least 3 live trees around cove area. Ellen Rugemer will talk to the Scoutmaster to see what went on. It is against Scout policy to allow anyone to use an axe away from a specific designated firewood preparation area.

**Analemma:** Bill Skinner said we will start placing the marker bricks. Volunteers are needed to place a brick on the same day every week at noon. Marcia Bogash said her husband volunteered. More volunteers are needed. Bill will contact Mr. Clark and will get the bricks. Barb Trump asked about the telescope. Bill Skinner said there is no additional news to report.

With no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Ellen Frey at 8:25 PM. Seconded by Bill Skinner. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be 7:00 PM on January 12, 2015 at the Town Office building.

*Submitted by Donna Davis, Secretary*