

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.

Volunteers Present: Tom Smith.

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

Minutes for September: accepted as presented. Motion by Justin Watts, seconded by Marcia Bogash.

Treasurers Report by Marcia Bogash: Ending balance of \$6,182.15. Report accepted as presented. Motion by Ellen Frey, seconded by Barbara Trump. The software currently used for accounting is out-dated. Treasurer Marcia Bogash requested permission to purchase new accounting software and will research for the best alternatives. Ellen Rugemer motioned to allow purchase of software. Motion seconded by Ellen Frey and passed.

Naturalists Report: none. Marcia Bogash and Vince DePalmer assisted with clean-up of flood-waters on the floor of the building this past Friday. They reported that when they arrived Sherry was expertly handling the Nature Nook class while simultaneously mopping the water from the floor.

The Board discussed the Naturalists salary. Presently it is \$10.00/hour. After discussion, the Board determined that funds in the budget will allow raising the salary to \$12/hour. Marcia Bogash motioned to raise the naturalist salary to \$12/hour, effective October 14, 2013. The motion was seconded by Ellen Rugemer and passed.

PR Report: Marcia Bogash reported that she has received applications for 8 or 9 memorial certificates. She is disseminating flyers and information to numerous locations in the County. The Bocce Ball Tournaments received good coverage in the Carroll County Times as well as the local Advocate.

Barbara Trump mentioned the Manchester Black Friday event. She and Marcia Bogash volunteered to operate the Nature Center table again this year.

PROGRAMS:

Bocce Ball: Vince DePalmer reported that even with some last minute team changes to deal with, the Tournament went very well. Dry weather reduced conditions on the court. Many local businesses chipped in with prizes and special offers. Brothers Pizza offered \$4.00 Bocce Ball Sub Specials for October and sponsored a team. The Knights of Pithias set up and operated the food tent, which was a popular attraction. A note was signed by Board members to thank the Knights for their generous volunteer service with the food tent.

FACILITIES:

Building: The Building flooded again during the past weeks excessive rains. Mold is also forming on the ceiling. Bill Skinner sealed nail-pops and tarred areas of the roof where moisture may be entering. He feels much of the moisture may be entering through the Pergola. The Board discussed some possible solutions to the flooding problems. The water seems to collect from the parking lot, funnel down the walkway, and underneath the building door. Discussion will continue to address this problem and develop a plan of attack.

Grounds: Bill Skinner removed shrubs and cleared the area for the compost bins.

Tom Smith reported: the fence behind the pavilion at the pond has been installed, and the rails along Memory Grove replaced. There was a bit of wash-out on some of the trails that can be repaired with a load or two of wood chips. Some trees fell but none are blocking trails. The Town was concerned about the high water level in the pond. Tom adjusted the pipe to lower the water level. He also started laying cobblestones around the butterfly garden. Drug paraphernalia was found in the park. Someone also used the old fire ring. Both have been cleaned up. A new air pump was purchased. Steve Israel has closed the dig-site for the season.

OLD BUSINESS:

Dog Stations: Bill Skinner erected the two dog stations, located at the pond and at the edge of the parking lot near the bathrooms and walkway entrance.

Observatory: No new news on the Observatory. The Park is still under consideration.

Trail Mapping: Ellen Rugemer has friends who have volunteered to GPS the park trails and make a map.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tom Smith asked if the Board wants to install a railing on the pavilion to keep children off of the parking lot. This had been discussed at a prior Board meeting. The Board briefly discussed the need for rails and several options. The item was tabled for a future meeting.

Sharon Hughes reported that Town Manager Steve Miller will be attending the November Board meeting to discuss water and sewer items.

Vince DePalmer asked if the Board would visit his Lions Club at a future meeting to present the CQNC power-point talk that was developed for the Town Council. The Board agreed that it would be a good opportunity to present the program again.

Ellen Rugemer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM, meeting adjourned.

The next Board meeting will be 7:00 PM, Monday November 11, 2013, at the Town Office Building.

Minutes submitted by: Donna Davis