

Fair Hill Nature Center Board Meeting
November 9, 2011

Attendance: Joe Clancy, Guy Palmeri, John Bowsbey, Jon Carpenter, Ted Jasinski, Holly Hannum, Karen Aspinwall, Dan Schneckenburger.

Minutes from October meeting were approved.

The board briefly discussed treasurer's report and status of receivables, which were noted in e-mail from June. A 2012 budget needs to be the focus of future board discussion.

School Report from Holly Hannum.

1. Lower trail upgrades were recently completed by DNR staff, and very much appreciated. The center is making every reasonable accommodation for handicapped students in wheelchairs. Board discussed and encouraged continued communication with Cecil County Public Schools.
2. Pond intake pipe from small creek needs addressed. Holly was going to reach out to Soil Conservation. January 12, 2012 is the Soil Conservation District banquet. Contact June if you are interested in attending.
3. PNC Bank made a \$2,000 donation for kindergarten outreach program, which starts November 30. All 17 CCPS kindergartens have signed on.
4. The board approved \$2,188 in expenses from staff "wish list" and also approved a \$500 expense to pay for stone used to upgrade the trail.

Fair Hill Point-to-Point

The board heard a presentation from Don Cochran and Jay Meister from the Delaware Valley Point-to-Point Association about the start of a Fair Hill point-to-point next year (April 22). The spring steeplechase horse race could benefit the nature center in exchange for volunteer work and other efforts. This would be an event similar to the Memorial Day races which benefit Union Hospital, only less formal and more amateur in participation. There would be no pari-mutuel wagering and an expected crowd of 1,000-2,000 to start. Such an endeavor requires work from the beneficiary (potentially the nature center): banking, ticket sales, mailings, promotion, parking and other duties.

The board agreed to take some informational steps with Dan to contact attorney Dennis Clower and Joe to contact the Brandywine Valley Association (which conducts a similar event near West Chester, Pa.). The board would also request a letter of agreement re costs and expectations before approving the venture, and would work to determine an approximate number of hours of staff and volunteer time.

Geothermal and Repairs Update

Preliminary work has begun on well location and building inspection for the geothermal heating system.

Work has also begun on the roof project.

Strategic Plan

A date has yet to be set, but the board expects to plan a January retreat to discuss and formulate a longterm strategic plan for the nature center.

Greenfest Update

The date is May 5, 2012. Dan sent an email of several PDF documents for the board to review regarding sponsorship, exhibitors, etc. Board members are encouraged to relay feedback to Dan.

Greenfest committees are taking shape and include Exhibitors (Ted Jasinski, chair), Public Relations (Joe Clancy), Parking (Mike Garrity). The Hayride/Activities and Food Services are still in need of chairs.

December Meeting

The board agreed to meet Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. with expected presentations about solar energy and ADA requirements.