

**Lake Roland Nature Council  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 20, 2019 at 6:30 pm  
Lake Roland Nature Center**

Board Members Present: Elise Butler, Jeffrey Budnitz, Jim Flannery, Ed Brady, Rick North, Carlton Sexton, Peter Lev

Other Attendees: Ranger Jonathan Wood, Kay McConnell, Kimberly Warren, Bob Smith, Leslie Monford

**Welcome:** President Kurt Davis was absent, so Vice President Elise Butler called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the January 2019 Meeting were approved by the Board with one correction—Ranger Wood asked that we change “Jonathan Lehman” to “John Lehman.”

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jeffrey Budnitz verbally gave us figures for LRNC assets and liabilities. Financial data are published at least once a month on email.

**Rec. and Parks Staff Report:** Ranger Wood reported that the Bird Extravaganza on Feb. 16 and 17 was a success. Attendance was 160 people the first day, 180 the second.

Lake Roland is now considered part of the Nature Centers unit. Kirk Dreier of Cromwell Valley Park is acting head of the unit.

Another Donut Run is scheduled for April 7. We need more volunteers for that event.

Other events: An Easter egg hunt will be held April 13, in the evening. On Earth Day, April 22, a student group will be working on weed management.

**Special Guest Leslie Monford:** Elise introduced Leslie Monford, who represents District 2 on the Dept. of Recreation and Parks Board. Leslie described an ongoing issue with background checks. There should be an automatic notice when your background check is coming due. Right now the various councils spend too much time tracking background checks.

**Environmental and Historic Preservation Committee:** E. Butler reported on a conference call Feb. 4 between consultant Roger Latham, GIS expert Scott Haag, Kurt Davis, Elise Butler, Jeffrey Budnitz, Peter Lev and Kimberly Warren. Scott asked for the call; he wanted to introduce himself to the LRNC group. Roger will establish permanent monitoring quadrats for a plant inventory based on Scott’s work. Kimberly told Roger that Guilford Garden Club is preparing another \$3,000 grant request for Partners for Plants. GGC received \$3,000 from Partners for Plants last year. Kurt Davis requested that Roger send us one bill for the Serpentine Project; we do not want Scott and other subcontractors to be billing LRNC separately.

E. Butler defined “concept plan” for Leslie Monford and described the two concept plans we are working on. LRNC and GGC will meet within the next few weeks to discuss the next steps for the Nature Center concept plan.

Peter Lev said that a draft breeding bird survey of Bare Hills Barrens had been sent to Roger Latham a few days earlier. It is based on field work done in summer 2018.

P. Lev reported that he had asked several knowledgeable people if they could collaborate with LRNC on an insect survey of Bare Hills Barrens in summer 2019. There was considerable interest. P. Lev said that the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) appeared to be the best fit. Kay McConnell said that she had talked to Doug Tallamy about doing a survey, and he replied he could do a survey if he knew what questions Roger Latham wanted to ask. Peter said LRNC was trying to do an inexpensive survey, therefore the preference for working with NHSM.

**Paw Point Committee:** J. Budnitz said a Dog and Donuts event was coming up. Leslie Monford asked if there are dog problems in the park, e.g., dogs fighting, or dogs biting humans. Jeffrey and Ranger Wood said that such problems are minimal. There were more problems in years 1-3 of Baltimore County's management of the park.

**Trails Committee:** J. Budnitz said he is looking for a new sea container to hold canoes. Also, he will be donating a generator to the park.

Jeffrey and Ranger Wood said we are evaluating our grills. When we install a grill, we will use concrete bases to minimize disruption to the surrounding area.

The culvert project is complete. The sewer project on the Falls Rd. side of the park, near Coppermine Field House, is also complete.

**Recreation Committee:** Gero Verheyen was not present. He sent an email saying that the next Donut Run will be April 7.

**Membership Committee:** J. Budnitz said we have 184 members, which is slightly ahead of last year. Ranger Wood said that summer camps are almost filled.

**Residents Committee:** No report.

**New Business:** The date for the Spring Native Plant Sale is May 4 (not May 11 as reported in the agenda for this Board Meeting). Elise Butler described the Spring and Fall Native Plant Sales as very successful collaborations between GGC and LRNC. She urged LRNC Board Members to volunteer, saying the event is fun as well as being part of LRNC's educational mission.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.