

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2019**

Attendees: Kurt Davis, Elise Butler, Jeffrey Budnitz, Jim Flannery, Peter Lev, Beth Hoker (by phone), Jonathan Wood

President Kurt Davis opened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Treasurer's Report:

Current Assets:	Checking/Savings	50,153.92
	Accounts Receivable	505.00
Total Current Assets		50,658.92
Fixed Assets		397,027.94
Current Liabilities		149,484.00
Total Liabilities		149,494.00
Equity		298,202.68
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		447,686.86

Staff Report:

Jonathan said that a few new programs are planned. Lake Roland's beekeeper will talk as part of a program about butterflies. There will be a program about the Paw Paw plant. Mud day is coming up. Summer camp did a day on the water, which was very successful .

New Baltimore County policies on monthly employees and sick leave may limit programming. Baltimore County is reducing hours for monthly employees. Jonathan and other Nature Park managers have inquired whether Gifts and Grants accounts could be used to pay monthly employees for additional hours, and to self-insure for sick leave. No answers yet. Jonathan told us that we may need to put more money into the Gifts and Grants account. Another option would be to use money generated by programming to pay staff doing programming.

Interviews with people applying for the Ranger 1 position happened today (August 7).

Membership Report:

216 members.

Design Framework Report:

Elise Butler reported that the Guilford Garden Club had won a \$2,000 Partners for Plants grant from Garden Club of America to support Roger Latham's research in Bare Hills Barrens. This is the second year GGC has won this grant. Congratulations to Kimberly Warren and Kay McConnell of GGC.

The date for the Fall Native Plant Sale will be Saturday, September 14, 2019. Elise is hoping that with receipts from this event we will be able to fully fund Roger Latham's Serpentine Restoration Plan.

University of Maryland, College Park Assistant Professor Anahi Espindola will be at Bare Hills Barrens on Tuesday morning, August 13 for a first look at the serpentine barrens. Elsie Butler and Peter Lev will host her. Anahi is planning a comparative study of pollinators at three serpentine barrens.

Peter Lev reported that Jim Young's lepidoptera study is going well. Three more evening sessions and one day session are planned. Then Jim will spend the fall cataloging what he has found. The results are due to us by January 1.

New Business:

EC agreed to a \$300 donation to Kathy Woods of Phoenix Wildlife Center (same as last year).

An intern has put together an interactive tour of Lake Roland. When implemented, a visitor will use his/her cell phone to access information at points of interest in the park. QR code embedded on signs will make the links possible. The interactive tour will also be available on the Lake Roland website. Art on the Trail already uses this technology. The one problem is that signs are sometimes vandalized. Jonathan discussed making the signs as secure as possible, and said that park staff would handle replacing signs, as needed. Jeffrey said that the interactive tour had good information, but the visual design could be improved.

Conflict of interest document: LRNC already has a conflict of interest policy on its website. Elise and Jeffrey will put the document into PDF format and Peter will send it to all Board members. Board members will be asked to sign and date the last page and return it (hard copy) to LRNC. This process will be repeated annually.

Kurt had raised the issue by email of whether LRNC would need to provide volunteers to accompany Anahi Espindola on research visits to the park. Peter said that Anahi would probably send graduate students rather than doing the pollinator research herself. Also, all visits will be during the day. Jonathan said that we need to know who will be in the park doing research and when. Elise and Peter will talk to Anahi about exactly what researchers will be doing in the park, and report back to the EC.

Nominating Committee: Kurt Davis will ask Carlton Sexton to chair the Nominating Committee for 2019-2020. EC has identified two potential nominees—Howdy Knipp, who has already agreed to be nominated, and Shelley Brunelle. Elise will contact Shelley, who leads the monthly Weed Warriors activity.

Speaker for Annual Meeting: Kurt Davis suggested Jim Young, speaking about the Lepidoptera study. Peter will talk to Jim and see if he'd like to do this.

Jeffrey discussed the possibility of installing an Earth Networks weather station at Lake Roland. That would give us very local weather information, including storm and lightning warnings. Also, a camera would be pointed at the bridge so a park user could see whether there is snow cover. Cost would be a \$999 setup fee plus \$2800 a year. Earth Networks would do the maintenance. Jeffrey did not want a vote at the meeting but asked if this was something he should pursue. EC told him to go ahead.

Jeffrey is testing Signup Genius as a way to have people sign up for volunteer opportunities. He showed us what the interface looks like and how it connects to the Nature Center calendar. Jeffrey said he would be using the names of EC members to test signing people up for specific events.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev