

Lake Roland Nature Council  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
November 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM  
Meeting held via Zoom

Board Members Present: Kurt Davis, Elise Butler, Howdy Knipp, Jeffrey Budnitz, Dwight Johnson, Lydia Redding, Gero Verheyen, Peter Lev, Marc Klein, Rick North, Lissa Rotundo, Dorothea Lankford, McKay Jenkins, Steve Bruno, Beth Hoker, Siobhan O'Brien Budnitz

Also Present: Ranger Jonathon Wood, Kay McConnell, Kimberly Warren, Elizabeth Wolfe, Cara Kohler, John Rekus

President Kurt Davis called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of November 2019 Meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Checking/Savings** 39,100.59

**Total Current Assets** 39,100.59

**Fixed Assets** 430,372.98

**TOTAL ASSETS** 469,473.57

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

**Other Current Liabilities** 79,484.00

**Total Current Liabilities** 79,484.00

**Total Liabilities** 79,484.00

**Equity** 389,989.57

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 469,473.57

**Election results:** Kurt reported that the following officers were elected for 2-year terms:

Gero Verheyen as Vice President

Jeffrey Budnitz as Treasurer

Peter Lev as Secretary

The following continuing Board members were elected to 3-year terms:

Jim Flannery

Beth Hoker

Gero Verheyen

Kurt Davis

The following new Board members were elected (term length specified below):

Siobhan O'Brien Budnitz (one-year term)

Steve Bruno (two-year term)

McKay Jenkins (three-year term)

Lissa Rotundo (three-year term)

Dorothea Langford (three-year term)

### **Staff Report:**

Jonathan Wood reported that the Park has experienced a more than 250% jump in usage. Programming is going on—for the next few months, all programs are outdoors. All trails have been blazed and labeled except for the White trail. Interns have been working hard. The Vimeo page includes lots of virtual content. Staff are doing everything they can to keep the park running well during Covid.

As of Tuesday, November 17 at 5:00 pm, the Nature Center is closed to conform with Governor Hogan's Covid-related restrictions. Restrooms in the Nature Center remain open.

### **Committee Reports:**

Environmental and Historic Preservation—Peter Lev said that the Committee has not met regularly since March 2020. Kurt and Peter did convene one meeting in Fall. LRNC has two main environmental projects: restoring the Serpentine Barrens in the southwest corner of the park and building a nature trail behind the Nature Center. Consultant Roger Latham is preparing a Bare Hills Barrens restoration plan, with the final product due in mid-2021. LRNC and the Guilford Garden Club are co-sponsors of Roger's work. For information on Serpentine restoration, contact Peter. For information on the new nature trail, contact Kurt.

The EHP Committee is looking for a new committee chair. Elise Butler, longtime chair, is leaving the Board.

Paw Point—Beth Hoker said that Paw Point already has 206 paid members for 2021. Two walk-in registration dates were very successful.

Trails—Gero Verheyen and Jeffrey Budnitz reported that they have been working on the Pink trail. A sediment box near the overflow parking lot has been restored and is working well. This should prevent flooding and accumulation of sediment on the lower parking lot. The Trails committee also has handled storm damage—e.g., removing fallen trees—on the trails. A continuing issue is the lack of a staging area, including reserved parking, for the Trails Committee on the Falls Road end of the Red trail. This has delayed needed work on the Red trail.

Roslyn Johnson, new head of Baltimore County Recreation and Parks, toured the park recently with Ranger Wood, Jeffrey and Gero.

Recreation Committee—Howdy Knipp chairs this committee, but since Gero was chair for most of the year he gave the report. Recreation programs such as canoe outings, Donut Runs, and

fishing programs have been curtailed because of Covid. We will start up these programs when we can. We are refurbishing a canoe container so that 6 canoes can be stored near the fishing area. Currently canoes need to be moved by vehicle every time there is a program. Gero said that Board member involvement is needed to make Recreation programs a success.

Membership—Jeffrey said membership letters are going out this week. All Board members need to join.

**New Business:**

Splitting the Environmental and Historic Preservation Committee into two committees: A proposal was moved and seconded to split the EHP Committee in two—forming an Environmental Committee and a Historic Preservation Committee. After brief discussion the motion passed.

Recognition of retiring Board members: Kurt noted that Elise Butler, who was present, had been a strong contributor to Lake Roland Nature Council. We have planted a tree on the Peninsula with a plaque recognizing Elise as a founding member of LRNC. Kurt also thanked Bill Jones for his service to the Nature Council.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.