

Lake Roland Nature Council  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 20, 2021 at 6:30 PM  
Meeting held via Zoom

Board Members Present: Kurt Davis, Howdy Knipp, Jeffrey Budnitz, Christine Corbitt, Dwight Johnson, Lydia Redding, Gero Verheyen, Peter Lev, Rick North, Jim Flannery, Beth Hoker, Lissa Rotundo, Dorothea Lankford, Carlton Sexton

Also Present: Ranger Jonathon Wood, Kay McConnell, Kimberly Warren, Corey Johns, Kirk Dreier

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

**Guests:** Kurt asked Corey Johns and Kirk Dreier to introduce themselves. Corey is the at-large member of the Board of Directors for Baltimore County Recreation and Parks. Corey has a particular interest in the nature parks. Kirk Dreier is the acting regional coordinator for the Rec. and Parks unit that includes nature parks, while also continuing as the park manager at Cromwell Valley Park.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of December 2020 Meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Staff Report:**

Jonathan reported on two unwanted incursions into the park. One involves the Hash House Harriers group that blazes its own unauthorized trails and often hikes after heavy drinking. The other involves unauthorized construction of three hunting blinds in the park. *Hunting is not allowed at Lake Roland.* Park staff took down the blinds.

Upcoming programs—Moonlit hike Jan. 29; a birding weekend Feb. 13-14; Maple sugaring Feb. 27-28. Volunteers would be welcome for maple sugaring; a Signup Genius request will be out soon.

Jonathan asked Board members to keep background checks up to date. Kurt added that park membership, conflict of interest forms and Covid-19 waivers are also needed for Board members.

**Committee Reports:**

Environmental—Peter Lev said he had a chance meeting with Shannon Davis, former head ranger at Lake Roland. She says hi to everyone. Shannon has had good luck digging up isolated *Miscanthus* plants at North Point State Park. LRNC volunteers should try this in spring.

Bill Hilgartner will speak May 26 on his research in the Lake Roland Serpentine barrens. His Zoom talk, sponsored by the Maryland Native Plant Society, is free but requires pre-registration. Contact Peter if you need more information.

Historic Preservation—Howdy Knipp reported on exploring historical sites at in the park. Following up on earlier GPS work by Jeffrey Budnitz and Shannon Davis, Howdy and geographer Elliott Plack located two groups of historical sites: one near the Red Trail, the other near the Purple Trail. Howdy led a group of four people to pull vines and clean up some of the Red Trail sites. He mentioned possibly doing an archeological dig at one of the sites, leaving open whether LRNC could do this independently or should seek expert guidance. Kurt and Howdy noted that the Maryland Historic Trust Foundation has good information on how to conduct an archeological dig, plus detailed forms for recording what is found at a site.

Paw Point— Beth Hoker said there are 431 members so far.

Trails Committee— Gero Verheyen and Jeffrey Budnitz said this is the slow season for trail repairs. Gero has shot drone footage of the trail through the Serpentine meadow and the in-process Nature Center Trail. Jeffrey is working on a large canoe container that will be an easy, quick solution to support canoe events.

Recreation Committee—Howdy asked if Jonathan needed volunteers for upcoming programs. Jonathan said requests will come through Signup Genius.

Membership—Jeffrey said LRNC has 97 members so far.

### **Old Business:**

Kurt sent out a fundraising appeal letter via MailChimp on Jan. 18 to 4,000 email addresses—all historical LRNC and Paw Point members. The letter includes links to Gero's spectacular drone footage of the park. Response has already been excellent.

Kurt also submitted a grant request to BGE for equipment to improve emergency medical responses in the park.

### **New Business:**

Carlton Sexton and Kurt spoke about a possible Spring fundraiser co-sponsored by LRNC and Blue Water Baltimore (BWB). Carlton is a board member for both groups. BWB does water quality testing on the tributaries coming into Lake Roland and on the Jones Falls just below the dam. Leanne Powell, director of development for BWB, has some great ideas for a fundraiser to be held at Lake Roland. Kurt will have more to say about this at next month's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.