

Lake Roland Nature Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
February 17, 2021  
MINUTES

Members Present: Kurt Davis, Peter Lev, Howdy Knipp, Jeffrey Budnitz, Beth Hoker, Dwight Johnson, Gero Verheyen, Jim Flannery, Steve Bruno, Christine Corbitt, Marc Klein, Carlton Sexton, Rick North, Lissa Rotundo, McKay Jenkins, Dorothea Lankford

Other Attendees: Ranger Jonathan Wood, Kay McConnell, Kimberly Warren

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

Minutes from the January 2021 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report:

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Checking/Savings** 65,084.07

**Total Current Assets** 65,084.07

**Fixed Assets** 436,954.94

**TOTAL ASSETS** 502,039.01

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

**Other Current Liabilities** 79,484.00

**Total Current Liabilities** 79,484.00

**Total Liabilities** 79,484.00

**Equity** 422,555.01

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 502,039.01

Staff report: Jonathan said that the hibernation program and other recent programs have been affected by weather. The bird count on Feb. 13-14 took place despite icy weather. Jonathan and Peter Lev counted 22 species on Feb. 13, Jonathan on his own counted 19 species on Feb.14.

A lot of people have signed up for Maple Sugaring programs. There will be a training day for volunteers. Jonathan said he needed one additional volunteer leader, and Dorothea Lankford and Lissa Rotundo agreed to split that responsibility. Dwight Johnson will be backup, in case we need a last-minute replacement.

Lake Roland has many outdoor activities planned for Spring and Summer. The new Calendar will be out soon.

Friday walks will continue, but a staff member may lead. Some may be themed walks. A Timberdoodle walk is scheduled for March 5, 6-7 pm.

We don't have a definite answer on Summer Camps. We hope to open enrollment in April. No word on when portable restrooms can reopen.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental: Peter Lev reported on an excellent lecture by Bill Hilgartner sponsored by the Maryland Native Plant Society. The topic was the plants of Bare Hills Barrens. While the meeting was in progress, Jeffrey Budnitz checked the MNPS website and found that a video of Bill's talk had been posted. Jeffrey said he would link to that video from the LRNC website. On Feb. 23, Deborah Landau of The Nature Conservancy will present an MNPS lecture via Zoom on "Maryland's Fire History: Using Fire to Restore Natural Communities." You can sign up to see/hear this free lecture on the MNPS website.

Historical Preservation: Howdy Knipp put some flags down to mark grave sites at the small graveyard near the Red Trail.

Paw Point: Beth Hoker said we have 553 members, a record for this time of year.

Trails: Gero Verheyen and Jeffrey Budnitz carved two benches out of a fallen ash tree. They are both on the Pink Trail (aka the Woodbrook Trail). Jeffrey said the large tree was killed by the Emerald Ash Borer, and that he had saved parts of the tree that showed this insect's destructiveness. Jeffrey is working on equipment maintenance, and on the new canoe container.

Recreation: No report.

Membership: 107 members so far. That number is down from previous years. Some families become members for a camp discount, and camp registration is not yet open this year.

OLD BUSINESS: We are still getting donations after a successful end-of-year appeal. A \$2500 donation arrived yesterday.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Kurt said a joint fundraiser is planned at Lake Roland involving LRNC and Blue Water Baltimore. The preferred date is June 27. The concept is to set up 4-5 learning stations on the peninsula. Attendance will be capped at 100, though this may be reduced because of Covid restrictions. LRNC and BWB will invite 15 VIPs each. The contact person at BWB is Leanna Powell, whom Kurt, Jeffrey and Carlton Sexton described as dynamic and positive. BWB will be making a site visit in the next few weeks. Kurt said the more Board participation in this project, the better.

Cancellation policies: Jonathan said that fees for LRNC programs are considered donations. If a participant cancels for any reason, the fee will not be refunded. If Lake Roland cancels, e.g., because of weather, no refund but the fee could be used for another Lake Roland program. This would apply only until the end of the calendar year. A refund policy for Summer Camp will be decided in April.

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jonathan described a few podcasts that Ranger John Lehman had done about the park. Jeffrey offered to provide a link on the website.

Jonathan mentioned that 2021 is a Cicada Brood X year. The last 2 weeks of May and the first 2 weeks of June are peak season. The park will be running special Cicada programs. We may also wish to protect Memorial Trees from cicada damage.

The meeting concluded at 7:20 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.