

Lake Roland Nature Council
Executive Committee Meeting
February 3, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Meeting held via Zoom

Those present, via Zoom: Kurt Davis, Jeffrey Budnitz, Peter Lev, Gero Verheyen, Ranger Jonathan Wood

Kurt Davis convened the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Staff Report: The County issued new Covid guidelines on Feb. 1. Not much has changed. The Nature Center is closed except for restrooms. Portable restrooms are still closed. Winter programs are all being held outside.

Staff are working on a new home for the terrapin. It will be a 100-gallon tank with a mural as background. The upper part of the mural will show a marsh, the lower part an underwater view.

The hiring freeze is still in effect. Not even monthly staff can be hired. Jonathan was able to find two new interns.

A lot of people have signed up for Maple Sugaring.

Membership: 102 members.

Committee Reports:

Environmental—Bill Hilgartner gave an excellent lecture on the plants of Bare Hills Barrens on Jan. 26. The lecture was sponsored by the Maryland Native Plant Society.

Historical: Howdy Knipp and a small group of Board members did cleanup (cutting back vegetation, etc.) on some of the historical sites in the park. Kirk Dreier asked Howdy to talk to the Baltimore County Historical Commission before planning any archeological work. Kurt Davis and Jeffrey Budnitz noted that Lake Roland is on the National Register of Historic Places, not the county list. Kurt also suggested that we contact the Maryland Historical Society.

Paw Point: Jeffrey reported that people are joining, and some are making donations in addition to paying Paw Point memberships. A large tree needs to come down in the dog park. We may be able to chip it right there, and quickly use the mulch.

Trails Committee: Gero and Jeffrey moved pieces of a large ash that were left in the main parking lot. They fashioned a bench from one of the largest sections, using chainsaws, and they have one more section that will make a good bench.

Recreation Committee: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fundraising: Kurt reported that his year-end appeal, sent by email to 4,000+ addresses, is bringing in donations. People were given a choice to contribute to the Nature Center building fund or to a general fund. The largest donation so far, \$2,000, went to a general fund.

LRNC-Blue Water Baltimore Joint Fundraiser: The EC met with Leanne Powell and Carlton Sexton of BWB to discuss a joint fundraiser at Lake Roland in late spring (Carlton is a member of both LRNC and BWB boards). LRNC and BWB would invite 15 VIPS each—these might be potential donors, politicians, etc. Other attendees would have to buy tickets. Presentations by LRNC and BWB, perhaps 3 each, will be set up around the peninsula. We need to choose and plan topics for LRNC presentations.

Program Refunds: We had a continuing discussion of how to handle program refunds in 2021. Jonathan later emailed the EC specific language about cancelations. The basic policy is that payments for programs are donations and will not be refunded. The following language will be included on future park programs and on the website:

Advanced registration is required for all programs.
Programs begin promptly at start time.

- All payments are donations and are not refundable.
- Organizations and large groups must schedule programs separately from the programs (for families) listed in the publication.
- Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks, LR, its staff, and volunteers are not liable for loss, theft, or damage to personal property.

Rain/Inclement Weather Policy:

- All events are rain or shine unless a rain date is specified.
- Program Leaders determine cancellations on the day of the program.

We reserve the right to deny any visitor the privilege to participate based on behavior that could jeopardize the safety of that individual or the group.

If a program is canceled, Jonathan intends to give credits that may be used for another Lake Roland program. The credits expire at the end of the calendar year.

The EC discussed Summer Camp payments as a separate case. Jonathan's email said that wording for Summer Camps will be decided in April.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.