

Lake Roland Nature Council Minutes
March 17, 2021 at 6:30 PM
Meeting held via Zoom

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

Also Present: Ranger Jonathon Wood, Kay McConnell

President Kurt Davis called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Kurt announced that LRNC had received a grant from BGE for first responder equipment to safely transport people out of the park. BGE approved most but not all of the needed equipment, so LRNC will have to pay for one item to make the system complete.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the February 2021 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: (as of 3/3/21)

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings	68,993.28
Total Current Assets	68,993.28

Fixed Assets	436,954.94
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TOTAL ASSETS	505,948.22
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities	79,484.00
Total Current Liabilities	79,484.00
Total Liabilities	79,484.00
Equity	426,464.22

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	505,948.22
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Staff Report:

Jonathan Wood said the park has been busy—almost a full parking lot on warm afternoons. An Earth Day cleanup is planned for April. Jonathan asked for a volunteer to brainstorm about Earth Day. He got three volunteers: Siobhan, Dorothea, and Lissa. Howdy asked if a lake cleanup by canoe could be a part of Earth Day? Jonathan said yes, let's talk further.

A contract has been approved for the return of portable toilets. No date set for delivery.

Lake Roland did get approval to fill some long-vacant staff positions. This will help us staff the park and the Nature Center.

Re Summer Camp: An official announcement will be posted on April 1st, 2021 with the most current and up to date information pertaining to the Dates of Camp, registration dates for members and nonmembers, registration process, and preliminary camp rules/regulations for 2021.

Brood X cicadas are coming this year. We will need to set up netting to protect young trees. We have some memorial trees that are guaranteed (will be replaced if needed)—they must be protected.

The County planted a 4-ft. dogwood to commemorate Covid deaths.

Committee Reports:

Environmental and Historic Preservation— Peter Lev said that we received and paid a bill from consultant Roger Latham which mainly covered botanist Janet Ebert's field work in Bare Hills Barrens. Roger has discovered a problem with his GIS subcontractors, who seem to have no interest in continuing. Roger has an alternate choice of subcontractor, if needed.

Historic Preservation—Kurt has been consulting several archeological groups around the state to learn how to set up gridding and how to do a successful archeological dig.

Howdy has also been talking to archeologists about how to handle Lake Roland's historical sites. One contact is Dr. Charles Hall, the Maryland State Terrestrial Archeologist. Another is Dr. Catherine Bernstram of the Central Maryland Historical Society and Towson University. Dr. Bernstram will make a site visit to Lake Roland.

The only work Howdy is doing at historical sites is to clear brush around them. Special care must be taken at the small graveyard. Howdy will create a grid of the graveyard. Gero asked if an overhead drone photo would be helpful. This may or may not be possible, depending on the tree cover.

Paw Point— 620 members.

Dorothea asked about encouraging Paw Point members to join the Nature Council. Jeffrey said a number of people belong to both, and Paw Point members do receive emails or letters asking for donations to the park. Many Paw Point members are solely interested in the dog park.

Membership—114 LRNC members. When the Nature Center reopens, a laptop could allow people to sign up for membership on the spot. Kurt said an Art on the Trail laptop could be repurposed for membership.

Trails— Gero Verheyen has been cutting cookies from a fallen Ash tree that can be used for dry footing at muddy spots on the trails. Gero will look for downed trees that are close to trails as sources for more cookies.

Jeffrey Budnitz said maintenance work on the excavator is complete. He's working on the skid loader. We sold another memorial tree and another memorial bench.

Kurt is applying for a grant for new or existing trails. The maximum amount is \$80,000. Deadline is April 30.

Recreation— The canoe container will be moved soon from the parking lot to its final location. 6 canoe trips are planned this year. Gero said that with Howdy, Steve Bruno and himself we have a good core of people to support canoe trips.

Friday walks will start in April. Nancy Horst, Dorothea and Kurt met to talk about this program. To add interest, walks will invite guest leaders. Kurt volunteered to lead a walk.

New Business:

BWB-LRNC Fundraiser—This has been postponed at the request of BWB. BWB has had some leadership changes.

Anahi Espindola research project-- Anahi Espindola, Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland, plans to do research on pollinators in serpentine barrens at Lake Roland in 2021. Jonathan Wood, John Lehman, Peter Lev, and Lissa Rotundo met via Zoom with Anahi and Ph. D. student Justin O'Neill to discuss the project. The project will run from April to October with Justin doing most of the field work. Jonathan told Anahi what forms needed to be filled out. After the meeting, Peter and Lissa arranged to meet with Anahi and Justin at the Lake Roland serpentine to talk about study plot locations, parking, and other issues.

Kurt to step down as President—Kurt Davis said his term as LRNC President is up in November, and he will not re-up. Board members should be considering who would make a good President.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.