

January 9, 2020 Prairie Smoke Meeting Minutes

Attended: R. Kemmerick, C. Kernler, Dawn Littleton, E. Pfannkoch, B. Nigon, S. Powers, R. Yaeger

Guest present: Walt Nigon

Agenda Items: Meeting held at Barb Nigon's home.

- 1) Secretary's report: Nov 2019 minutes approved.
- 2) Treasurer report: Barb reviewed deposits and bills from October through December 2019. Mark has resigned from the board. Documents will be transferred to the new Treasurer.

Old Business

1. Board elections: Barb announced that she is happy with Dawn's offer to assume the Presidency if she wanted to retire. Ruthann nominated Ryan Kemmerick for Treasurer, and will remain as Secretary. Chuck nominated Ed Pfannkoch as Vice President. Both Ed & Ryan agreed to take the tasks. **Motion:** slate of candidates will be as above. Passed.
2. Housekeeping: Discussion ensued regarding responsibilities, PO Box keys, safe deposit box, Gmail acct, and other details.
3. Webmaster: Sharon has let us know she is retiring as webmaster. Current web program requires HTML programming but no other board members have those skills. Several new programs that are easy to use were mentioned, such as Weebly, Wix, GoDaddy, etc. Ruthann will send out a note to the Master Naturalists. And Susan will draft a note for Ryan to send to the membership.
4. Annual mtg food expenses: Barb asked for a vote on covering food costs for the meeting. **Motion:** to allot \$250 for food for meeting. Passed.
5. 4-H program: Emma Kuisle completed her PS-sponsored project. Barb asked for a motion to give her a PS T-shirt as a prize. **Motion:** to send Emma a T-shirt. Passed. We agreed to continue this program.
6. Honorariums & Bequeathments: the \$275 from PS for MNat students in honor of Joel's contributions to PS still has not been used by anyone. The \$700 from Frank Bower was discussed. Ed reported that the Farmer's Co-op in Stewartville offers a scholarship for SE MN students who want to go into Agriculture. He proposed that PS offer a similar scholarship for those who want to study native grassland ecology. Discussion followed. **Motion:** to offer this when the new website is up and running. Passed.

New Business

1. Speakers for January 26th meeting. Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Rochester Environmental Education Specialist will speak on pollinator habitat. MJ Hatfield will speak about insects in restored prairies.
2. Pollinator program: Various suggestions were made to tie into the Lawns & Legumes program:
 - a. PS could cover people who do not get accepted into the Lawns to Legumes program. Dawn pointed out that no state grant would reimburse PS for our expenditure and we would have to be responsible for ensuring that the project gets done.

- b. PS could offer our own grant to folks who want to do this but were turned down. This program would require submission of a budget and plan to PS and follow up.
- c. Offer signs to those who were refused because they already have a prairie. Long discussion about what constitutes a 'pocket prairie'. No formal definition out there. PS can decide how big it is for any program we offer. Signs cost ~\$12-25 each depending on material used.

This will be discussed further at another meeting.

Off agenda item: Ryan reported that Frank Bower's wife's membership is due. Should PS pay it for her since they donated \$700? Barb pointed out that we still have the seeds they donated. Board agreed to cover her membership for her lifetime.

Meeting adjourned. Next regular board meeting: TBA
R. Yaeger, sec'ty

Addendum: Slate of candidates was passed unanimously by the Prairie Smoke members at the Annual Potluck program at the Chatfield Public Library on January 26, 2020.