

August 30, 2020 Prairie Smoke meeting minutes

Attendees: Ryan Kemmerick, Ed Pfannkoch, Chuck Kernler, Susan Powers, Ruthann Yaeger, Barb Nigon

Secretary's report: Motion to approve the Aug 19th minutes with corrections; passed.

Appointment of Acting Officers: Ed was nominated to be Acting President. Susan nominated Barb for Acting VP. Both candidates agreed to take on the position. Motion made to accept. Passed unanimously.

Future plans: Suggestion: Ask membership to send in locations of prairies in Olmsted Co.

Fall activities: must use COVID-19 protocols

- Seed harvest and processing at Chester Woods discussed
- Clean-up day in coordination with National Public Lands day (NPLD) on Saturday, Sept. 26th. Rain day on 27th discussed.

Board agreed to the clean-up day. Ruthann will notify the City and will try to get on the MNat NPLD volunteer page. Disposal of debris was discussed.

Annual meeting: Ed asked for timeline for mtg, we decided to postpone until COVID situation sorts itself out. Ruthann asked the board to compile a speaker list for future events. Suggestions were made.

Outreach efforts:

- Ed asked board to look for new board members. We are down to 6 and need at least 3 more. Ryan reported that our membership is down too – 82 paid memberships and some are couples – about 120 individuals all.
- Scholarship – Ed & Barb will get more info regarding scholarship for students going into Ag careers.

We need to move forward on outreach with an email when we have something to say, relevant information to pass on, etc. Ask if people want advice with their areas, offer ideas and programs, etc.

Webpages corections:

- Board list needs to be changed to reflect new officers and other changes.
- Susan suggested review of whole site.
- Barb wanted to see if there was a way to print pages and edit as hard copy offline.
- Ed and others will send suggested changes to Ruthann and she will stay on top of whether the changes have been made.
- T-shirts and bandannas discussed. Picture is needed for web – Ed will try to get pics.

Non-agenda items:

Seed swap: Susan suggested a seed swap event or in concert with other events. Ed suggested that we bring seeds to every event – seed packets should be labeled with plant name, year and location from which it was taken. Chuck has small envelopes to put seed in – is willing to donate some to PS.

Display board: needs updated of pics and new header. Ruthann has done a new header and will get it printed. Susan suggested some pic on the display that matched that on our website.

Prairie Enthusiasts: Chuck mentioned that TPE has new chapter – Driftless chapter based in Winona but it includes all of our area. They are branching out into Rochester. Should we cooperate? No decision made.

Next meeting around December? TBA Adjourned.

Ruthann Yaeger, sect'y