

Sassafras Board Meeting 12.7.15

In attendance: Jessica, Amanda, Bill, Rob, Rosemary, Tommy, Denise, Geoff, Andy, Polly, & Alex.

- (1) Board Meeting minutes
 - a. There are 2 or 3 that need to be accepted by the board, but are not ready for review yet. I will work over the next few weeks to get them ready.
- (2) Treasurer's Report
 - a. Very little expenditures to report.
 - b. Taxes and annual report have been filed.
 - c. June 1 – May 31st is the fiscal year for us
 - d. We received the \$350 community grant for the Great Backyard Bird Count
 - e. Tommy confirmed that we got a check from the Vanguard
- (3) Friends of Sass Members
 - a. We were up to 80 members but now to 70 or so because of membership expiration
 - b. Tommy suggested to send out a letter at the end of year—have two versions, one for current members one for past members.
 - c. According to bylaws you can be on board and not be a member.
 - d. Alex suggested a vague letter that generally asks for a 2016 renewal.
 - e. Tommy noted that there is no obvious perk for being a member of Sass.
 - f. Tommy proposed that we put this on the agenda for next meeting.
 - g. Rob as the chair of membership offered to bring a proposal for next meeting.
 - h. Tommy wants to make a new leaflet that will go to friends of Sass—maybe membership expiration date can be added to this mailing.
 - i. Tommy said that goal might be to hope for 100 members a year.
- (4) Update on Chimney Swift Towers (Jessica/Rob)
 - a. Indemnity Clause concern
 - b. Our insurance as it stands currently will not cover construction
 - c. Jessica proposed to donate the money the Parks Dept (this is similar to what we did for the Wonderlab)
 - d. Sass is responsible for cleaning them once a year & paint (not annually)
 - e. Tommy asked about what guarantee we would have that when we donate the money, it will be spent for that
 - i. Rob and Jessica confirmed that this is a very low risk
 - f. The city lawyer looked up and didn't find any history of issues with chimney swift towers

- g. City council really liked the idea of having two towers together with the prospect of eco-tourism
- h. Alex noted that no matter what we did, they could take them down since it is their property
- i. Alex moved to approve the new proposal to have the funds moved to the parks department and have Jessica sign the contract on behalf of the board.
 - i. Geoff seconded the motioned.
 - ii. All in favor (no opposed; no abstains)

(5) Update on GBBC (Amanda)

- a. We are growing: 9 schools this year; between 15 – 20 classes
- b. We received \$350 from national society
- c. Tommy confirmed that Sassafras would contribute \$500
- d. Amanda asked if anyone had connections. White River Co-op closed (gave us the feed at cost).
 - i. Geoff suggested T & T
 - ii. Amanda said that they will check out Rural King
 - iii. Menards was also suggested
- e. Please let Amanda know if anyone hears of good deals
- f. Request that Andy still put out additional calls for volunteers
- g. Geoff requested that a list of schools be sent to the members
- h. February 12th & 15th are the dates if any board member is interested
- i. Jessica requested a description of volunteer responsibilities be sent out
 - i. Amanda said she will also send out the information on background checks
 - ii. Andy will send out description to everyone once he gets it from Amanda

(6) Events for January – March

- a. Tommy asked if we were going to do the banquet again (include on postcard)
 - i. Tommy requested that we form a committee to prepare the banquet
 - ii. Jessica mentioned that David might be willing to get his friend to work on catering this year
 - iii. Geoff volunteered to lead the banquet committee
 - 1. Rosemary confirmed that she will join the committee
 - 2. Bill confirmed that he will join the committee
 - 3. Alex confirmed that he will join the committee as well
 - 4. Tommy proposed that Andy send out a request in the newsletter for nominations for the three awards
 - 5. Big items that need to be confirmed: date, speaker and food

- a. Tommy suggested reaching out to for the speaker
 - b. Alex suggested the new mayor, John Hamilton
 - i. His suggestion was also well received by the board members
 - c. Roger Haggarter (sp?) was also suggested
 - d. Send other potential speakers to Geoff
 - e. Confirmed later in the meeting that we will start with John Hamilton as a first choice
 - 6. Geoff suggested that we do the banquet in early April
 - a. Rosemary proposed Thursday, April 7—everyone review
 - b. Communicate via multiple means: letter, postcard, and website
 - 7. Alex will handle liquor license questions
 - iv. Tommy proposed a photography event in the summer—consider this as an agenda item for next week
 - b. Rosemary will request that Susan & Jim Hegenveld will do a program in February
 - c. Tommy will do a bird walk in February (will send a date)
 - d. Geoff will do a photography for beginners Sat. Jan 23 (included on postcard)
 - e. Great Backyard Bird Count (include on postcard)
 - f. Eagle Watch weekend is January 29-31 (include on postcard)
 - g. March madness & partnering with Goose Pond (include on postcard)
 - h. Ducks and donuts is in March
 - i. Tommy confirmed that we need to set a date—he will send a date to Rosemary
 - ii. Provisional we will hold Saturday, March 26
 - i. Rosemary will contact Sharon Sorenson and has asked Sycamore Land Trust to be a partner along with local garden clubs in order to increase the size of the audience
- (7) Andy will send out a preliminary postcard email for review by board members
- a. Goal is to have the postcards ready by Dec. 21st
 - b. We will need someone to take over communications
 - i. Amanda may have a friend would be interested; Tommy suggested that the friend join us for the next board meeting
- (8) Other upcoming events:
- a. Goose Pond - Dec 16th
 - b. Lake Monroe (Hegenvelds)- Dec 19th
- (9) Other action items
- a. Bird count application—Tommy will send out information at a later

date

b. Alex will seek to get reprint permission for flyers

(10) Geoff noted that Ducks and Donuts in November was a big success

(11) Geoff has put together a feeding guide—Tommy requested a PDF version for the website

(12) Tommy will send out the dropbox link to the board

(13) Meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm