

## MINUTES

Friends of the Holland Sand Prairie

January 12, 2015

Present: Pete Putnam, Jay Fernholz, Marilyn Pedretti, Pat Caffrey, Jim Rogala, Mike Hoffman, David Carlson
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Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Putnam.

Minutes: Motion by Rogala/Caffrey to approve the September 8, 2014 minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: No report. \$270 has been received from George Varnum memorial.

New on the prairie: Putnam reported he stained the HSP sign and updated the kiosk last fall. Rogala put seed out and did some sumac cutting before winter hit. Caffrey noted he and Duerkop spent a half day early December cutting trees and brush.

Work on the prairie: The Ft. McCoy Challenge Academy worked on the prairie October 11<sup>th</sup>. They stacked brush and cut small logs. The Outward Bound group also worked on October 11<sup>th</sup>. They cut and treated the Buckthorn.

Newsletter: Putnam noted the Town of Holland newsletter had two articles about the prairie – the Open Prairie on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and one about the MVC written by Dave Skoloda.

Open Prairie May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rogala and Hoffman have begun organizing the event. Rogala will work on a flyer to post around town. Hoffman will get something in the Courier. It was suggested we cross post with other organizations and get a blast through the MVC network.

MVC: Putnam reported that a new land manager starts at the end of the month. MVC will present the overall plan for maintenance and restoring the HSP in 2015 at the next meeting.

Mowing trails: Putnam would like to assume the mowing duties previously held by Varnum. A lively discussion followed concerning whether a wider path should be maintained along the perimeter. Motion by Fernholz/Pedretti that Pat Caffrey mow the perimeter 9' wide once a year which excludes the pines and Pete Putnam mow a 42" pathway of his own design for an interior walk. Motion passed (Putnam dissented)

Blue Bird houses: Hoffman has volunteered to assume the Blue Bird duties. After some discussion, it was suggested that Fernholz check into the issue of Blue Bird houses on a prairie. This item will be reviewed next meeting as to how many and where they are located.

Transmission line: Pedretti gave an update. Final decision should be heard mid-April.

Dog signage: Rogala provided a draft of a sign that would prohibit dogs on the prairie during the nesting season (April 1 to August 15). Motion by Rogala/Caffrey to approve posting the sign as presented. Motion carried. It was suggested that the "no dogs allowed" sticker be removed from the current sign at the entrance of the prairie.

Fundraiser: Putnam reported on a fundraiser possibility through the Brat Barn at Festival Foods. Discussion followed. It was the consensus not to pursue. Other suggestions for fundraising will

be discussed next month (narrow strip insert added to the current brochure, donation box, facebook, appeal to current email listing, membership).

Brush piles: It was suggested that the brush piles should be burned sometime this winter.

Future agenda items: open house, fundraising, MVC workplan

Next regular FHSP meeting: Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Caffrey/Fernholz to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by  
M. Pedretti