

MINUTES

Friends of the Holland Sand Prairie
September 8, 2014

Present: Pete Putnam, Jay Fernholz, George Varnum, Marilyn Pedretti, Pat Caffrey, Jim Rogala, Brian Gray, Mike Hoffman, Pete Duerkop, Bob Leum, Judy Peterson

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Putnam.

Minutes: Motion by Rogala/Duerkop to approve the June 9th minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gray's written report showed a balance of \$2,580.57 at the end of May and \$2,194.96 at the end of August. The difference reflects interest of \$0.98 and a payment of \$386.59 to the MVC for a portion of a prairie burn. Motion by Fernholz/Caffrey to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

New on the prairie: Putnam noted several different photographers, hunters and some people who actually read the sign! Caffrey mowed the sumac patch three times. Rogala reported the prairie hike in August had a good turnout. Duerkop reported he applied basil bark to the black locust the morning of the hike and it appears to be working. The MVC had a work day and they worked in the pine square and treated some re-sprouts. Caffrey also did some touch-ups on leafy & Cyprus Spurge areas. Varnum reported seeing lots of pink and yellow (rough blazing star, false boneset, poppy mellow, and daisies) and the goats rue was in the pod stage. Putnam congratulated the MVC on their new facility. Rogala will be collecting seeds again this fall. Fernholz reported he and Diane saw Bell's Vireo on a recent walk.

Ft McCoy Academy: Duerkop tentatively suggested the academy may be on site October 11th. He'd like to have a volunteer work day a week or two before to prep the work. He would like to remove the perching trees.

Spring Open House: Hoffman suggested an open house that would be educational for folks and give them a chance to see the prairie. Discussion followed. Motion by Hoffman/Fernholz to have an open house on Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 10 am to 2 pm. Motion carried. Hoffman and Rogala will begin the planning and report back.

HAF: Putnam reported that Lloyd Dresen of the Holmen Area Foundation (HAF) will let us know if they need any paperwork signed for a 501(c) account.

Transmission lines: Putnam noted that he drafted a letter on behalf of the FHSP and sent it to the PSC. He suggested others get involved and listed instructions from the Town's website.

Brush removal: Putnam reported that David Carlson has offered the Town could chip some brush if it was brought to the gate. Discussion followed. It was determined that if an opportunity to use the service makes sense, it will be utilized and they will notify the Town.

Dogs on the prairie: Rogala is awaiting further input from the DNR.

Big Thank You to Pat Caffrey! Caffrey donated his time, equipment and spray several times in the past few months. The Friends thanked him!

Fundraising option: Putnam reported on a flyer he received from Herberger's for a fundraising opportunity. After discussion, it was determined that our membership is too small to make it work.

Old Business: Nothing to report on the by-laws at this time. Item will return to a future agenda.

Fence damage: Varnum reported the fence in the far southwest corner was hit again by Dummer machinery (same spot as last time). Discussion followed on options. A work party of Caffrey, Hoffman, Putnam & Fernholz will fix the fence and trim grape vines on Friday 9/12/14 at 10:01 am. Varnum has fence posts and wire available.

Future agenda items: open house, fundraising (prints, develop a mailing list, donation envelopes or possible donation box at the kiosk)

Next regular FHSP meeting: Monday, January 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by Fernholz/Rogala to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 8:12 p.m.

Minutes submitted by
M. Pedretti