

Minutes of May 18, 2016 Board Meeting

Attended: Joel Dunnette, Barb Nigon, Chuck Kernler, Dawn Littleton, Ryan Kemmerick, Susan Powers, Mark Stopyro, Jeff Summerfield, Ruthann Yaeger

Absent: Don Nelson Guests: Patty Kemmerick, Brian Littleton

Agenda Items:

- 1) Meeting called to order after delicious meal courtesy of Barb.
- 2) Secretary's report: Approved
- 3) Treasurer's report: Received. PS has \$12,488.92 in bank now. IRS short form 990EZ is now 990N. IRS is having "technical difficulties", and help is impossible to get, so may take awhile. Chuck asked permission to consult a CPA he knows. Board OK'd this.
- 4) Chuck reorganized membership list to be sortable by several useful parameters. He has updated the email list. Discussion followed regarding sending out group emails and who should be in charge. Joel suggested setting up a Google Group for mail distributions and this was well-received.
Motion: Google group will be set up. Passed unanimously. Chuck will work with his son on set up.

Old Business

- 1) Summer programs - Dawn will coordinate tour notification. Barb will send out the list of programs to members when list dates have been set. Tour list will be posted on the website.
 - Spring Grove Shooting Star native plant nursery tour set for August 13th. Includes trip to Barb and Walt's cabin for picnic and tour of their prairies. Time is TBA, but will likely be 11AM.
 - Hayden Prairie in Iowa - Joel leading ZVAS Audubon trip there May 31st.
 - Fall picnic - at Jeff's place on October 8th, at 3pm. Rain date Oct 15th. Will be potluck, with BBQ and fireplace. Program at Oronoco, can make it a work day for seed collection, but not for personal use, only SNA use. Barb will supply hot dogs, brats. Address: 7050 Halifax Ln NW.

Chuck suggested three more program possibilities:

- Weaver Gardens organic farm and native prairie tour by Paul Wotzka, hydrologist. Suggested date is Sunday, July 17th.
- Rain garden tour in Winona led by Master Gardeners. Tour with maps allows people to go on their own - plan for 4 hours. Date TBA, probably on Sunday d/t length of trip to Winona.
- Paul Gruchow Memorial prairie tour - will be set aside for next year d/t full schedule.

Dawn suggested co-sponsoring with ZVAS - will list programs on both web sites.

- 2) Walt purchased and installed the new pump for burn wagon and it is working well. Total bill for pump and supplies is \$403.28. **Motion:** Reimburse Walt for expenses. Passed unanimously.
- 3) Ryan reported that PS brochure needs pictures and requested that members send in suitable photos of people, prairies, burns, etc. Discussion ensued regarding other social media such as setting up a Facebook page to post pictures, stories and so on. It was agreed that maintenance and monitoring would be needed.

New Business

- 1) Site assessment: Joel contacted Jaime Edwards and she reiterated priorities for what needs to be done. Joel can teach interested members to do a superficial assessment of properties.
 - Check for natives, invasives, is site suitable for prairie? Can it be burned? Most landowners just want to know resources for help in doing something to improve land for natives.
Motion: to pursue forming of a committee of volunteers to learn assessments. Passed unanimously

- 2) Burn class: Barb is setting this up with Jaime.
- 3) Barb reported that Mark Boenish got a \$250 donation from neighbors who wanted their prairie burned. Suggestion made to consider changing bylaws to deal with non-members who want to use PS equipment to burn. Bylaws do not address policies so no changes are needed. PS burn packet states that "Membership is required in order to use the Prairie Smoke equipment". Mark followed that policy and had his neighbors fill out the burn forms and become members, hence the \$250 check. This is how we get the majority of our members, so no policy change is needed.
- 4) Spring burn season results: one *Smoke on the Road* sign was stolen. Landowner was very upset and will replace. About 465 acres burned, and donations were received for burns. Amount TBD.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting TBA

R. Yaeger, sec'ty