

Roanoke Valley Chapter
Virginia Master Naturalists
January 26, 2014

The officers' meeting was not held and Beth called the quarterly meeting to order at 2:30.

An attendance sheet was circulated.

Pat moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the fourth quarter meeting as Bill was not present. Laurie seconded the motion which passed by membership vote. Ann moved to accept the minutes as sent to the membership. Laurie seconded the motion which passed by membership vote.

Ann gave the treasurer's report:

\$334.93 was paid to Bill as reimbursement for the pruning tools purchased for use at Happy Hollow.

\$20.00 was paid to All Sports for name badges.

Balance: \$2026.32

Motion to accept the report was made by Sharon with second by Scott and passed by membership vote.

Committee Reports:

Marketing and Communications: Christina

We have been mentioned in the Salem Times, Roanoke Times and Roanoke Sentinel. An article in the Sentinel covered the hawks. Mark Taylor helped get articles in. Messages concerning the upcoming class were kept local. Beth noted there is a great map showing the location of all the chapters.

Advanced Training: Ann

Ann suggested a meeting at the Butterfly Exhibit in the Spring. She said her experience was that it was an excellent presentation.

Beth said that Debra D. from DEQ does a presentation on microconstituents in the water. Beth has the powerpoint.

Mike Crowder questioned the monthly webinars. They count as continuing education but Mike had trouble downloading them. Christina, Ann and Beth watched live without issue. Beth noted that watching live with access for questions, etc. was better than watching after the fact.

Projects: Larry

Question was raised about more work at Happy Hollow. Sharon will check.

The first Saturday in May is designated for removal of invasive species. The greenways could use some attention. They are overseen by the County. Denny will work on this.

The Parkway overlook was cleaned in the Fall but is closed until April.

Mill Mountain Nature Center is a good venue for promoting education and great PR for the chapter.

Discussion moved to T-shirts and high visibility vests for our work in public for identification and safety.

Ann will check availability and prices.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Spring Course:

Bill and Nancy have requested monitors for the upcoming course meetings. As monitors you can take the class for credits you may need or get volunteer hours for doing introductions and flash drives, etc. Vetting of applications needs to be done. The Curriculum Committee will handle under Bill's direction. There will need to be a central place to meet. There are 8 paid applicants so far. Anyone present wanting to monitor, please give your name to Sharon for inclusion in the minutes. Mike Crowder will do Dendrology to make up his hours. Bill will be asked to resend the Class Schedule so everyone can sign up.

Discussion turned to class participation as a knowledge base as opposed to learning for volunteer purposes. It is recognized that some people take the class with no intention of volunteering. Some chapters charge more to take the course when there is no intention of volunteering.

Annual Report:

We have been late and need more people to be involved. Bill will finish the 2013 info but a committee is needed for 2014. Carl Reed, Sharon Vest, Ann Stinnett and Laurie Spangler expressed interest. The committee would be charged with: Making sure hours were logged, following up on odd things, showcasing projects. Alycia would provide training.

While people may be members of multiple chapters, it is not encouraged. Hours would be logged under the home chapter.

State Meeting: Beth

Beth attended the Steering and Executive meetings and reported they were great. DEQ has come on as an additional sponsoring agency. Special thanks to VCE and DCR for their assistance. There is much appreciation for the program and much interest in the Statewide course material manual. Four chapters are currently ready. A new website is coming that will be more user friendly. It will be through Weebly. There will be a Citizen Science Network for access to projects. The MOU needs to be signed as the old one has expired.

It was suggested that books and field guides that members no longer need be brought to the quarterly meetings for other members if they wanted them.

Denny:

Applications will be given to Sharon. Our new Federal Tax ID and banking will be handled by Ann. An informational meeting for the Spring class will be held at the Salem library on Tuesday from 7-9. We would like a class of 20. Christina will check on some last minute marketing. The class will start February 25.

Anne asked about the Cups for presenter gifts. Bill and Nancy have done some checking already so Ann will check with them.

Denny spoke to Rain Gardens (Cave Spring Middle School has a good one) and biomass retention with a program scheduled for February 28.

The annual report spread sheet for pins and certificates needs to be updated.

Beth presented 4-H Camp as a volunteer opportunity. The week for her club is June 16-20 with training scheduled March 14-16.

The third week of June is the Forestry Camp at Holiday Lake Camp. This is an academic camp and while there is no formal training for counselors, there is an application process.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 on a motion by Sharon with second by Pat and passed by membership vote.

Sharon M. Vest
Acting Secretary