

Brooks Nature Area

September 21, 2023

Members present: Dave Phaner, Patty Hoch-Melluish, Erin Skidmore, Brian Huggett, Margaret Steele and Janet Schoenmeyer

Members absent: Justin Miller

Technical advisors present: Jim Coury and Don Jewett

- A. The minutes of the May 18, 2023 regular meeting were approved, after Patty Hoch-Melluish noted that the company hired to eliminate invasives is Plant Wise, not Plant Life as was recorded in the May 18 minutes.
- B. The September 21, 2023 agenda was approved.
- C. Marshall residents Ian Campbell and Lauren Bruggeman were present. They stated that they wanted to find out more information concerning BNA and how they could contribute by helping out to improve the park.
- D. Dave Phaner gave an update on the park's monies as of September 18, 2023: \$39,556.04. Brian Huggett asked those present if there were any more suggestions to add to the BNA map. Everyone approved of the final draft. Brian will have 3 large maps printed and laminated. Discussion was held where the best locations would be for display. Janet Schoenmeyer will clean up the large display case by the sidewalk and demolish the wasp nest that is inside, so one map can be shown there. Brian brought up the issue of the need to update the Park's Site Management Plan. Everyone agreed the update was needed.
- E. Don Jewett stated that he and Jim Schoenmeyer cleaned out all of the birdhouses and weed wacked around the trail signs on September 13. Don stated that he thought some of the grass in the apple orchard should be mowed, or at least cut to be shorter than present length. He inquired as to what to do with plant material and branches that have been cut. Jim Coury suggested piling the materials on site for small animal shelter. Don added that the martin house and bat houses need to be placed up high and will need help for their placement. Margaret Steele stated that she would really like to see the martin house to be placed in the park soon, so that the family who donated it, could see it. She also has five bat houses needing to be placed.
- F. Dave reported that Plant Wise sprayed many of the invasives during their visit. He noticed that some of the targeted areas are already dying. The company will return in November for another spraying.
- G. Jim Coury showed some of the tree identification signs that he is placing on the park's trees. He has already placed about 1/3 of them. Jim suggested a photo op to give credit to Eckford Township for their generous gift. Patty Hoch-Melluish will coordinate the effort. Dave reminded everyone the bills from Plant Wise and the tree signage need to be sent to Eckford Twp. by December, for reimbursement.
- H. Dave said that Ben Lark's position needs to be filled soon. Visitor Ian Campbell stated that he applied for the board position today.
- I. Dave will place the signs to block the Industrial Park entrance by October 1st for deer season. Notification of BNA being closed will also be placed for the November 15 deer season.
- J. Adjourn
Submitted by Janet Schoenmeyer