

Brooks Nature Area

Minutes

May 18, 2024

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

Members absent: Justin Miller and Ian Campbell

Technical advisors present: Jim Coury and Don Jewett

- A. The minutes of the March 21, 2024 regular meeting were approved.
- B. The May 18, 2024 agenda was approved.
- C. No guests were present.
- D. Dave Phaner reported the current balance for the BNA fund at \$35,534.39. Comments concerning new map: Patty Hoch Melluish will laminate the large map and place it in the BNA display board.
- E. Don Jewett reported that since the new martin house has been installed, we could give away the old one. Diane Graves was brought up as a contact person to ask if anyone on Stuart Lake would like it. Don stated that the new martin house is logistically impossible to clean and maintain. It was agreed it will stand as is. Janet Schoenmeyer asked Margaret Steele for contact information of the donors so she can write a thank you note to them for the martin house. Justin Miller will have to be contacted for help in placing the bat houses high up in the trees, as they need to be at least 15 ft. above the ground.
- F. Installation of the two trash receptacles, a bench and a storage shed have not been completed by Fredonia Township. Fredonia Township's name as the donor, needs to be placed on all of their gifts. Eckford Township's end of the fiscal year is June 30th. \$350.00 is allotted for tree signs. Jim Coury stated that he will complete the task.
- G. Jim said that Ian Campbell and Lauren Bruggeman worked with him with clover seeding. Ian had asked for reimbursement if they bought wildflower seed. He and Lauren planned to spread the seed. Neither Janet Schoenmeyer nor Jim Coury have heard from Ian since then.
 - a) Patty stated that we need to update the BNA Management Plan. A revised updated plan is needed for many reasons. One reason for an update is because BNA needs to have something in writing to say that if we are offered a gift, but don't have a need for the gift/project or it doesn't fit with our goals, BNA can reject the offer. Margaret Steele, Brian Huggett and Erin Skidmore offered to work with Patty to revise the Management Plan.
- H. Justin Miller hasn't given any response concerning BNA's request to have only Erin and other active BNA members be granted access to the BNA Facebook page. Dave gave Janet all the newspaper articles concerning the history of BNA's formation. He suggested she contact the Marshall District Library to scan the articles to save for posterity.
- I. Next BNA regular meeting will be changed to Thursday, July 11 at 5pm., since Dave will be out of town on the third Thursday of July. This will be Dave Phaner's last meeting, since he is retiring from the Board, after 19 years.
- J. Adjourn
Janet Schoenmeyer