

MANCHESTER PARKS FOUNDATION

BOARD MEETING February 02, 2009

Present: Betty Smith, Bill Skinner, Ellen Rugemer, Marcia Bogash, Ellen Frey, Donna Davis, Elsie McCleary, Ed Poe

Volunteer: Tom Smith

Town of Manchester: Dale Wilder

Guest: Robert Mitchell, Principal Ebb Valley

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairperson, Bill Skinner at 7:07 PM at North Carroll Library

Guest/"Greenway": Betty Smith introduced guest Robert Mitchell, Principal of Ebb Valley Elementary School. He spoke of inquiries from teachers about a "greenway" between Ebb Valley and the Park. Ebb Valley is applying to be a green school. Betty Smith feels that what is needed is a motivated group from Ebb Valley to help create the pathway. A question needing to be answered is "What is a greenway?" Betty is hoping that the PTA will be a force in getting this moving. Mr. Mitchell will work with the instructional leaders at Ebb Valley to get this project launched. Without a legal greenway the only other prospect is to ferry the children in school buses. The school hopes to come for at least 2-3 hours to make it worth while.

Questions that need answering...

1. Is Mr. Thomas willing?
2. What is involved legally?
3. Will he allow Ebb Valley to walk through once just to see possible path area?
4. Will the path need mowing or mulch?
5. Is there a tax incentive for the Tree Farm?
6. What is involved with crossing Ferrier Road?

Minutes: Approved as read. Motion by Betty Smith, second by Elsie McCleary

Treasurer Report: Ellen Rugemer, Treasurer brought bank statement as of 12/31/08 showing a balance of \$4869.51. She has not loaded the software as yet.

She announced a donation of \$300.00 from Community Foundation. Marcia Bogash will send a thank you.

Web Page: Services are being donated again.

Naturalist: No report

Public Relations: Posters will be made by Marcia Bogash as well as press releases for Easter Egg Adventure. Ellen Frey volunteered to help deliver posters. Ed Poe will redo the display at the Town Office. Library is doing the PR for the April 6th Archaeology Event.

The Committee that was formed to study the enlargement of the Nature Center Building has been removed per Chairperson Ellen Rugemer.

Easter Adventure Egg Hunt: Eggs to be stuffed on 3/28. Event will be held April 4 at 10:00 sharp. Age groups will be 1-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-12. Signs will be set up to show age groups. One special prize egg will be in each section. Ellen Frey will purchase the baskets. Ellen Rugemer will purchase the candy. Ellen Rugemer has spoken to Troop 665 who will help with crowd control and parking. Ellen R. will also purchase rope off tape. Ellen Rugemer has purchased the Speaker System. Board Members should arrive at 8:00—8:15 to place the eggs on the 4th.

Spring Fest:

Band will be Thursday's Reign. Band will also call door prizes. Betty Smith will do Bear Box. Stephen Israel will do an archaeology presentation. Ellen Rugemer will be in charge of the following crafts: Butterfly wand, refrigerator magnets, flower pots, wooden lizards, lightening bug kits, bird fruit feeders.

Betty Smith will make plaster animals to be painted. Ellen R. will let us know about rock sifting table. She will also ask Troop 320 to help with the crafts.

Following Displays to be there:

- John Sies, Paper making
- Deer Display, Eddie Grimes
- Bird Feeders: Maryann Turner
- Master Gardeners Table
- Smokey Bear Program and Walk
- Duck Pond
- Don Malbrough—Rock Display?
- Dale will check with Police Chief
- Betty Smith will lead a facility Walk

Betty Smith and Ellen Frey will handle the food. Betty will need adult to cover when she is elsewhere.

Ed Poe will check on getting paper good donations. Bill Skinner will check to see if recycling from County is available.

Fishing Derby: Elsie McCleary expressed concerns about where prizes and bait would come from due to uncertain economy. Derby is normally 3rd weekend in June. Mickey will check about possible prizes from Gander Mountain, Dick's Sporting Goods, Bass Pro, etc.

Facilities:

Tom Smith reported that he had attended the Town Meeting. He had gathered trash, tires, etc. and the Town picked it up. He expressed concerns that the pump in the pump house is very loud. He says that it can be heard 100 yards away. Steve Miller checked and said it was fine. Tom was given some drawing of land lines from the Town and says that he can find some drawing points now. Letters were sent from Town to people on Wilhelm Lane about dumping trash on Park property. Someone came on to property and cut up and removed some downed trees. Tom saw 15 deer in the park on one of the icy days. He is concerned that there are dozens of American Chestnuts trying to survive.

Pond: Donna Davis reported that she had contacted the people who were to look into the things that are growing in the pond. Bill Skinner will meet with the county people to review that 2005 pond report. Ellen Rugemer has a copy of the report. Dale is to be given a copy of report for Town Council.

Pavilion: Bids were sent out and over 15 bids have come back. Large difference in prices. Meeting with Town to review has not taken place due to Sharon and Ellen having some health issues. Will try to set up ASAP. Goal is to have it done by April. Bill Skinner will also attend meeting.