

Manchester Parks Foundation

Minutes from **October 3, 2005**
Recorded and submitted by Sharon Hughes

OFFICERS

- Ellen Rugemer, President
- ✓ Bill Skinner, Vice-President
- Brenda Wulforst, Secretary
- ✓ Sharon Hughes, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

- ✓ Jenny Walters
- ✓ Betty Smith
- Donna Baker
- Marcia Bogash
- Elsie McCleary

(A check "✓" indicates presence at the date above.)

Volunteers Tom Smith and George Hooper were also present.

Vice-President Bill Skinner called the meeting of the Manchester Parks Foundation to order at 7:08 PM at Charlotte's Quest Nature Center.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

- Minutes from the September meeting were read.
- No quorum.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- The September Treasury Report was presented by Sharon Hughes:
August income - \$124.65
August expenses - \$601.42
Balance - \$5,695.46
- No quorum.

NATURALIST REPORT:

- Field Trips for 6 2nd grade classes scheduled.
- A Field Trip Registration Form, Confirmation Form and Guidelines paper were made to facilitate field trip registration. This will also be available online. Board present accepted these papers. Need one more to pass and then will be implemented. Do not need to wait until the next meeting.

PROGRAMS & UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nature Nook- October 7, November 4, December 9. No meetings in January or February
- Earth Kids- October 14, November 11, December 9. Will continue to hold meetings in January and February.
- Outdoor Classroom- October 13, November 10, December 8 No meetings in January or February.
- Manchester Parks Foundation Meetings- November 7. No meetings in the month of December.
- Christmas Crafts Workshop-December 3, 2005 10:00AM-Noon.
- Spring Fest- Sunday, May 7th the first Sunday. Chose not to change the date to the third Sunday.

FACILITIES

- Areas in Charlotte's Quest Nature Center and Pine Valley Park are the only places still green because of not being continuously mowed during this dry spell.
- Tom Smith continues his onslaught with the "Tree of Heaven".
- Trails are in good shape.

- Betty Smith chooses 3 students from her class to be “Scouts” when they visit the center each week. These scouts receive the honor of leading the walk while wearing garden gloves to clear trails ahead of the other students. The children vie for these positions. They are concentrating on the trails that need the most attention.
- Building-the painting needs finished. Bill Skinner will come down in 2 weeks to do the little bit of painting that was never completed.
- Grounds-Some of the piles of brush, stumps and other rubble has been cleared up by the town in the past two weeks. There are still 2 piles left. These were created when the town installed the water system in the area down near the pond.

SCOUTS

- Scout Troop 665 visited for a weekend sleepover.
- The scout finished the Council Ring rejuvenation project. A job very well done.

OLD BUSINESS

- PTA money-15 Pond Life guides and 25 Reptile and Amphibian guides are being added to our library. We will now have a class set of both guides.
Ellen Rugemer would like to get an Eagle Scout to “purchase” a Trundle Wheel to be used to create the new trail maps/guides and then the Trundle Wheel will be donated to the nature center rather than purchasing ourselves.
- The Online Calendar went from 81 hits on September 12 to 137 hits October 3.
- Bill Skinner submitted for a \$450.00 grant for equipment.
- Marcia Bogash is continuing to work on getting Open flags.

NEW BUSINESS

- Some Manchester Elementary School teachers have asked Principal Robert Mitchell to approve their grant application to have Manchester Elementary School declared a “Green School” based on projects done by the students at Charlotte’s Quest Nature Center.
- Tom Smith clipped the cattails. Betty mentioned that there are more now than ever since starting this practice. ‘Are they spreading more by roots because of the seed head removal?’ The roots need to be pulled out and it is tough work. Ideally a garden tractor and chain should be used to pull the roots out.
- Betty Smith mentioned using a Weed Jack. Not practical for cattails but would be great for the removal of invasive plants. Sharon Hughes suggested Betty find out the cost of a Weed Jack for submission to the town from the Facilities budgeted money.
- Tom Smith reported $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ of the way around Walnut Pond the ground is sinking into the pond. It is believed that that this is due to fishermen walking to the edge and/or standing on the rocky border and tractors mowing to the edge. This is creating a spillway. Sharon Hughes suggested a boardwalk that would help with this issue and aid handicap accessibility. Sinking pylons to put in the boardwalk may damage the pond. An engineer would need to be consulted before attempting this project. Bill Skinner will contact the Extension Service to see if they will come and talk to us about what we can do as upkeep for the pond. George Hooper will talk with Steve Miller about what to do—Betty wants some research to know the best avenue.

Betty Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jenny Walters seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.