

Present: Christian Alford, Ann Allen, Lisa Bress, Dick Dolliver, Chuck Drake, Mary Hogan, Terry Langevin, Randy Lee, Carol MacMullen, Dawn Morgan, Jay Melley, Michael Novak, Ford Parker, Cathy Schlude, Nancy Taylor

Regrets: George Slate

Meeting began just after 7pm.

**Minutes from the past meeting were approved.**

*The next meeting is Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 3pm (The Annual Meeting)*

**Country Fair:** Please send all articles, thoughts, reports, suggestions, pictures, to Mickey prior to the annual meeting. Jay commented that it would be nice to know how many attendees we had on such a beautiful day. Ann stated 219 people guessed at the jelly beans, 221 ice cream bars sold out, Chris said 24 runners participated in the race with 21 minutes the winning time for the 3 miles. Chuck summarized the pumpkin throwing contest with one catapult and one trebuchet entered, Lon Pelton winning his own hand made trophy! There were 22 egg droppers. Lisa Bress emphasized the need to start planning now for school participation in events such as art and the pumpkin throwing contest. September is just too early to get school participation for the same year. Lisa suggested coordinating *now* through the new high school supervisor. Ford met with Paul Norris, expressing how great the Country Fair was and offering more staff support next year. The Staff really wants to help out in any way they can. Ford took many pictures and has given them to Randy for web site use.

**Staff Report; Ford Parker:** The status on the Friends funded projects and new projects requiring funding were handed out. Updates will be handed out at the annual meeting. A motion was made and passed unanimously to approve \$2750 for exhibit items as described under #4 and \$600 for a Stream Table described in #6. Lisa summarized the need for the Stream Table for the new Water in Action program which supports the State of Connecticut changing the standards resulting in the changing of programs needed.

Ford stated during the next two years, he will be traveling quite a bit to work on funding, grants and grant writing, and relationship building with organizations, agencies, and individuals which will further the mission of the Park.

Dawn questioned the closing of the animal barn and nature center during Columbus Day weekend since it is usually a big weekend for store receipts. Ford indicated that due to past high rates of vandalism and lack of control of the children, the decision was made to close. He met with Mark, the director of tournaments who sent out a letter to attendees in regard to respecting the property at Northwest Park. Everything was a lot better this year with litter being the only issue. Police Explorers were great in controlling traffic. Next year he anticipates opening the Park again if extra staff and volunteers are available.

**Treasurers Report:** Country Fair basket data since 1983 was handed out along with a preliminary financial summary of the fair, estimating a \$9600 profit. The Final report when all the information is completed, is expected in another month.

**Trustee Information:** 9 Trustees still need to e-mail me their business and personal information updates.

**Financial Review & Software Package:** Randy contacted Budwitz & Meyerjack who agreed to a fee of \$2500 for our 501C3 financial review. This is contingent upon them receiving all official records: Bank statements, financial records, ledgers. Quick Book Software can be utilized. Randy and George to work together to get the information to Budwitz & Meyerjack.

**Event Coordinator:** Mary Hogan has agreed to be our event coordinator. Best of luck Mary!

**Volunteers:**

The painting of the classroom space and the addition of chair rails in the Nature Center has been postponed. Dawn to coordinate a date through Carolyn.

John Silliman who currently coordinates the x-country skiing program is looking for a person or group of people to help out and/or take over. Contact Dawn at [dawnmn@yahoo.com](mailto:dawnmn@yahoo.com) if you are interested in either of these opportunities.

**Annual Meeting:** We have a date of November 12 at 3pm. The agenda includes the Nominating Committee Report, Financial information (budget, treasurers report, financial review status) and discussion on the question “Where do you see the Friends as an organization going in the next ten years?”

**Coffee House Series:** Chuck said the first concert is scheduled for November 6 with Amy Gallitan & Stillwaters. Twelve concerts will be held Nov. 18, Jan 6 and every two weeks thereafter until May 12<sup>th</sup>. 3 dates are still available. This is the 12<sup>th</sup> season. Great job Chuck and crew! All proceeds go towards the Gordon Taylor Scholarship Fund.

Motion unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Terry Langevin, Secretary

Attachments: 2 from Ford Parker; 2 from George Slate