

Friends of the Holland Sand Prairie  
March 16, 2010

Present: Pete & Barb Putnam, George Varnum, Bob Leum, Andy Kranz-McGuire, Brian Gray, Phil Yehle, Jay and Diane Fernholz, Jim Rogola, Judy Peterson, Marilyn Pedretti

## MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Putnam.

Minutes: Motion by J. Fernholz, seconded by Leum, to approve the minutes of January 19, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Gray noted that there were some discrepancies between the last report and his opening balance. He will check and report back next meeting.

What's new on the Prairie? Nothing new to report other than the pine plantation work.

Hunting/Guns on the Prairie: After much discussion, it was determined to wait until George Howe reports on the fine print in the legal documents on whether the Town can prohibit or limit hunting/guns on the prairie.

MVC Update: Andy Kranz-McGuire, MVC's newest conservation assistant, announced that he has accepted another job. The MVC is working to hire a new land manager.

### Pine Plantations/Logging

The Town Board approved spending up to \$2,200 to assist with the pine clean-up. We received more money (\$3,416) than contracted (\$2,500) with the loggers. The additional money can be used for other improvements.

The Dummer driveway still needs a little more clean-up. J. Fernholz sent a letter March 1<sup>st</sup> apologizing for the mess. Volunteers will meet this Friday at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall to finish the work.

Much discussion ensued on the debris still left on the prairie and the best approach to burning the pine piles. A **work day was scheduled for Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to noon.** We'll get an analysis from MVC on the best approach and take action at that time. In an effort to recruit more volunteers: Pedretti will work on a press release and check with the biology teachers; J. Fernholz will contact Walmart and others are asked to recruit as best they can.

Thanks yous: Motion by D. Fernholz, seconded by Rogola, to send a thank you letter to Mr. Hutchinson with a hat stating that a bench with a plaque in his name will be dedicated on the prairie. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Pedretti, seconded by J. Fernholz, to send a thank you letter, two hats and a gift box to the Dummer Family Farms. Motion carried unanimously.

Back Gate: P. Putnam and Varnum will install the back gate with the help of Jim Rogola at the next work day.

Map: Rogola developed a map for visitors to the prairie that marks points of interest. The group gave Rogola some input and he'll finalize with MVC. It was suggested that black & white copies could be available for hikers and the map could be posted on our web page.

Flower Guide: Rogola and the Fernholz's had a few corrections that they will email to P. Putnam, who will get the original ready for printing. We'll need to shop around for printers.

Prairie Prints: We'll wait until George Howe is available to talk about this issue.

Walk: The Prairie Enthusiasts have scheduled a prairie walk on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. followed by a walk on the New Amsterdam prairie at 12:30.

Next regular FHSP meeting set for May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Motion by B. Putnam, seconded by Peterson, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted by  
M. Pedretti