

MINUTES OF FHSP – July 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Pete Putnam with the following members attending: George Varnum, Larry Bennett, Jay Fernholz, Judy Peterson, Bob Leum, Jessica Bolwahn-MVC/TPE, Marie Dummer, Phil Yehle, Barb Putnam, Ron Sunne and Pete Putnam..

Move to approve the secretary's report by Bob Leum. 2nd by Larry Bennett. Motion carried. No Treasurer's report. Pete has \$26.00 proceeds from the Holmen Area Garden Tour to give to Brian.

What is new on the prairie: the cactus are nearly finished blooming, larkspur and elderberry. George has been pulling Knapweed. Have been seeing many people visiting the HSP. Woodchuck has been digging around the west side of the Oak Savannah. Jay has seen Yellow-Billed Cuckoo. This bird has the longest tail of birds in our area. Also seen were wrens, sparrows, chickadees, and blue birds.

Jay gave a report on the kiosk. Pete and Jay have finished the shake roof on the kiosk. They are ready to set the posts. On Tues., July 14, at 10:00 a.m. they plan on loading the posts, cross arms and taking the pieces to the prairie site. The village maintenance crew will lift the roof onto the poles and backfill the holes. The kiosk is made of black locust, recycled 4x4's and cedar rafters & shake roof tiles. The Prairie Enthusiasts are providing the aluminum Plexiglas information cabinet. We will use George's trailer to haul the materials to the site and we need a couple of people to help with the set-up. At this point there is \$337.00 in material costs.

We have a contract for \$2,000 for the Pine Plantation with Tim Davis from Sparta. Pete and Jay met with Davis to sign the contract. Mr. Davis will come in along the Dummer Farm road along the back fence sometime in November after a good frost. The brush will be spread in the area of the pines. Large piles would take a long time to disintegrate causing more weed issues. He has agreed to save one White Pine sentry tree and Burr Oaks. Jessica noted that the money must go to the prairie because state funds were used for prairie. Pete and Jay were to authorize cutting only in the pine plantation at the price of \$25.00 per cord. A \$10.00 permit from the county was paid by Julian Hutchinson. Jay made a motion to reimburse him and give him a Prairie Hat. Jessica 2nd. Motion carried.

Holmen Area Garden Tour – Our 1st time to be included. There were 38 guests who had never been to the prairie. Jessica and Jim Regala told people about the prairie and the plants that were blooming. Volunteers from FHSP sold 2 Prairie hats and 2 key chains for a total of \$26.00. Blazing Star (Laitris) was in full bloom.

New Brochure in Box. Marilyn and Pete added pictures of our prairie and corrected areas in the brochure

Work Day on the Prairie Thursday, July 16, 2009 to work on the brush on the back road and treat the growth. The DNR will be spraying the Black Locust. The herbicide is still in

the plant system causing malformed leaves. 4 people with packs will spray the locust. Do not pick berries in area.

Phil Yehle is keeping our website up to date. Send pictures with separate jpeg files not imbedded in text. Pete will send pictures and email when he returns from vacation. Meeting date and times, work days and minutes were suggested to be included. Mention new brochure.

A 25 gal. Pressurized Water tank with a wand and battery offered to the prairie by Larry Bennett. It would cover 15'. Discussion followed on where to store it. Jay offered his barn. The tank would need to be put on a trailer in order to use it. Pete and Larry will meet so Pete can look at it.

Next meeting will be Sept 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Town of Holland Hall. Bob moved that the meeting be adjourned, Jay 2nd. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by acting Secretary,

Barb Putnam