

North Central Forest Landowners Association, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2009

The Annual Membership Meeting was held at the Red Fern Conference Center, 421 Old Kersey Road, St. Marys, Pa and there were 38 members and 13 guests for a total of 51 in attendance including:

Officers:

Larry Schultz, President
Marie Petrick, Treasurer
Verda W. Knowlton, Secretary

Advisor:

Tim G. Pierson, Ph.D., McKean Co. Cooperative Extension

Service Forester:

Stan T. Hess, Potter/McKean Co. DCNR Bur. of Forestry

Directors:

Ken Comstock, Potter Co.
Rick Smith, McKean Co.
Dave Lombardo, Cameron
Lynda Pontzer, Elk Co.

Call to Order & General Announcements:

The President called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. and introduced the speaker, Susan Munch, Ph.D. who will speak after dinner on the topic: "Below the Trees: Taking a Closer Look at Mosses and Liverworts." He also introduced Ken Manno, Sustained Forestry Initiative who had just arrived.

Approval of the July 12, 2009 Membership Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the membership meeting held at the Annual Picnic were read by the Secretary and were approved as read.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:

Presidents Report:

Larry mentioned the meetings and woodswalks held this year: Feb. 8th Carbon Sequestration and Carbon Markets; June 28 and Sept. 19th woodswalks at Matt Miller's Cow Hollow farm featuring lumber grading and horse logging; the annual picnic at the Cogan's; and the October 4th woodswalk at Ken Comstock's. Larry said that he has served as President for the past eight years and he is very grateful for all of the help members have given him; he thanked the board and officers for all of their hard work during his tenure.

Treasurer's Report:

Marie Petrick reported that the total income of \$3,150.00 for the year is all derived from membership dues as we have no fund-raisers. Expenses totaled \$2,259.00, leaving a balance of \$5,189.00 before the banquet dinner, the cost of which are being underwritten by the Association. We charged \$15.00 per person, but the actual cost was \$18.23. (copy attached)

Nomination Committee:

Larry served as Chairman along with Jane Cogan and Roy Knowlton. The committee met on October 26, 2009 at the home of Roy and Verda Knowlton and opened 91 ballot envelopes, recording the 108 votes cast by the membership on the ballot counting form. (Provision was made for write-in votes for the first time this year.) The election results were as follows:

Officers:

President: Tim Pierson --104; Jim Herzog--1; Walt Petrick--1; Tom Leete--1, Stan Hess--1.

Vice President: Walt Petrick—80; Don Crew—28.

Treasurer: Marie Petrick—108.

Secretary: Verda Knowlton—106.

Directors:

Elk Co: Lynda Pontzer—101.

Cameron Co: Dave Lombardo—98

McKean Co: Rick Smith—99

Potter Co: Ken Comstock—79; Tom Leete—28.

Larry thanked all those who took the opportunity to vote.

Newsletter Committee:

Walt Petrick announced that Stan Hess has retired as Newsletter editor so the Association formed a committee at the September 8th Board meeting to oversee the production and distribution of the Newsletter. Walt thanked Stan for the great job he did preparing and printing the newsletter for us and he is willing to help us with articles. The Vice President will chair the committee which also consists of Larry Schultz, Marie Petrick and Verda Knowlton.

Therefore, the Association has purchased a color lazer printer for \$400.00 which does a beautiful job; printing two newsletters has already paid for it. Walt announced that we are also starting to send out a newsletter by e-mail--so see him if you are interested in receiving it to make sure we have your current e-mail address.

Property Tax Committee:

Jim Herzog said they had achieved a major milestone in McKean County in stopping an increase in the Clean and Green assessment which saved about \$1,000,000 for property owners. He also mentioned that he has a personal property tax appeal which has been on-going for 12 years and which has now been appealed to Commonwealth Court.

Program Committee:

A Program Committee has been appointed, to be chaired by Tim Pierson, Co-Chaired by Walt Petrick with Marie Petrick, Ken Comstock, and Rick Smith as members. Possible programs for next year include Indian Trail Trees and a Sagamore Hunt Club woodswalk. Tim said a decision needs to be made as to whether the Association wants to go back to holding a Landowners Conference. If you have any program suggestions, please contact a member of the committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Status of Federal Tax Exemp Status Application:

Larry Schultz reported that as part of the application to the IRS, we needed to have a Conflict of Interest Policy which was adopted by the Board on October 28, 2009. This policy is to protect the tax-exempt Association's interest when it contemplates entering into a transaction or arrangement that

might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of the Association. The tax-exempt status will allow someone to make a donation to the Association and receive a federal tax credit.

NEW BUSINESS:

Audit Committee:

Larry asked for three members to serve on the Audit Committee and sit down with Marie Petrick to review the Treasurer's records during the meeting today—Claire Head, Rick Smith and Janice Comstock volunteered.

Corporate Bylaw Changes:

On the back of today's agenda are the two bylaws changes needing to be voted on today:

1. Article XI—Membership Cards:

Explanation: In order to conform to the bylaws which state that the card will include the member's voting status along with the non-profit status of the Association, we will delete "which will be signed by the president or vice president and by the secretary" and insert "which will be signed by the member."

The revised section will read: "Membership in the association shall be evidenced by a membership card in the form and style as the board may determine. The fact that the association is a non-profit corporation shall be noted conspicuously on the face of each card, which will be signed by the member, and will show the voting status of the member."

2. Article XII—Transaction of Business:

Explanation: As part of the Tax Exempt Application process, we are required to adopt a "Conflict of Interest" policy which the Board had done. Rather than include the 4-page policy in the bylaws, we are adding the following statement as part of this article:

Item 4—Conflict of Interest Policy: The Association shall adopt a conflict of interest policy which includes the provisions of "Appendix A: Sample Conflict of Interest Policy" as required by IRS Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Tax Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Current Item 4, Prohibited Activities will become Item #5.

Motion made by Jim Herzog, seconded by Don Comes to adopt these changes to the bylaws. Motion carried.

Penn State Extension Update:

Tim Pierson gave a brief update on the programs the Extension Office held with the NCFLA:

- Carbon Sequestration & Carbon Markets—What It Means for Private Landowners—held on February 8, 2009 at the American Legion in Port Allegheny, was the first meeting in the state on this topic and had 51 participants. Matt Smith, FORECON and Paul Roth, DCNR Bureau of Forestry were the presenters and that workshop is now the model which will be presented across the state by Penn State Extension in 2010.
- Woodswalks at Matt Miller's Cow Hollow Farm--on June 28, we had 35 participants. Marie Petrick's son, Joe Snyder, gave a layman's presentation on how to grade lumber and then they went to the woods to look at TSI and crop tree management brought on by blowdowns. During the second woodswalk on September 19, Matt used a team of horses to demonstrate horse logging, followed by log grading and estimating how much lumber would come out of the log.
- Summer Membership Meeting & Picnic at Ken & Jane Cogan's on July 11—42 people attended. How to control invasives was discussed followed by a tour of the property to see the practices being carried out by the Cogan's. Stan Hess also presented information on the eastern tent and forest tent caterpillar.
- Woodswalk at Ken Comstock's on October 4—there were 41 participants. A tour of their new home highlighted how they utilized wood from their property in the house. A forestry 101 handout provided definitions of various terms and was followed by property tours and a hot dog roast on the top of the mountain overlooking Sartwell Creek valley. Walt and Marie sent out an electronic newsletter featuring pictures from the woodswalk.

Presentation of Awards:

Larry Schultz:

Tim Pierson said we have tradition of recognizing officers and directors that serve on our Board. Tim presented an engraved clock to Larry Schultz recognizing his outstanding eight years as President of the NCFLA, Inc. Stan Hess emphasized that Larry has demonstrated his dedication by travelling over 200 miles from his home in Berks County to attend all the NCFLA meetings and events. Walt Petrick mentioned Larry's great job in his "View from the Top" articles in the newsletter. Tim said the duty of a President is to keep things running smoothly, taking care of any difficulties that arise and that Larry did an excellent job. He also mentioned that Larry is now on the Pa. Forestry Association board of directors and that he did a great job of sharing the NCFLA story across the state.

John Snyder:

Tim said that we also have an engraved pen to present to John Snyder, for his service as Vice President; since he is not here today, we will see that he gets it.

Maurice K. Goddard Award—Ken & Jane Cogan:

Tim Pierson introduced John Levavassuer, Hancock Forest Management, and Ken Manno, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, who will be presenting the Maurice K. Goddard Sustainable Forestry Management Award to Ken and Jane Cogan. Mr. Manno praised private forest landowners, such as the Cogan, for their efforts in managing their lands, without much financial assistance, who have committed themselves to making a difference on their property. It is a pleasure to see what the Cogan are doing on their property—the variety of options they are exercising under the counsel of Stan Hess and others, recognizing the differences on 10-20 acre plots between soil types, aspect, species, etc. They are very deserving of this award.

Jane Cogan thanked Stan Hess and others for their help with ideas for the management of their property. She said it was Ken's ideas and layout that made it her dream come true and that Ken's Management Plan is on the table—check it out.

Jane Cogan will give the invocation before the dinner which will be served in the large dining room. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary

Attachments (1)

Note: Door Prize Winners--Chainsaw Wolf—Rick Smith; Leaf Blower—Jane Cogan