

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting
March 16, 2010
9:00 a.m.

The Board of Directors Meeting was held at the DCNR Office in Emporium, PA. In attendance were:

Officers:

Tim Pierson, President
Walt Petrick, Vice President
Marie Petrick, Treasurer
Verda Knowlton, Secretary

Directors:

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

Advisor:

Tim Pierson, McKean Co. Ext. Office

DCNR Bur. of Forestry, Service Foresters:

Toby Herzing, Cameron-Elk Co.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Tim Pierson at 9:10 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Walt Petrick, seconded by Lynda Pontzer to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2010 meeting which were sent to Board members prior to the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

The largest expenses have been \$369.91 for printer toner, the \$400.00 filing fee for the tax exempt status application and \$550.00 to the CPA for preparation of the Tax Exempt Status Application form. The balance in the checking account as of February 4, 2010 is \$2,605.08 (copy attached). Marie reported that she would like to apply for a debit card for the checking account which would be more convenient than always carrying the checkbook along. Rick Smith made a motion that she apply for the debit card; seconded by Walt Petrick; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Program Committee:

Property Taxes for the Private Forest Landowner—April 8:

Another flyer will be sent out since this program was rescheduled due to bad weather in February. Walt will send out another news release. Tim said this meeting will be worth two credits for members of the Society of Foresters.

Indian Trail Trees—April 15:

This meeting will be held in conjunction with the Potato Creek Trail Association meeting at the Courtyard Restaurant in Smethport. Walt will put a notice on our website asking people to bring photos and GPS coordinates of alleged Indian Trail trees on their property.

Estate Planning for Forest Landowners:

Tim said the Program Committee needs to meet regarding this program.

Forestry & Wildlife Conservation Stewardship Field Day—June 19:

Tim reported that a “Forestry and Wildlife Conservation Stewardship Field Day” is being planned for June 19, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. From 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the Port Allegany American Legion, programs will be presented by the Farm Service Agency, the Headwaters RC&D Council, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the DCNR Bureau of Forestry, the Pa. Game Commission, and the PA Tree Farm Program. Information will be provided on the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and the Forest Stewardship Program. A three-hour bus tour in the afternoon to nearby Tree Farms, Game lands and Forest lands to view forest and wildlife practices is included.

The American Tree Farm Program will pay for the refreshments and lunch if they have 45 minutes on the agenda to discuss the tree farm program. There will be a \$5.00 registration fee that is refunded upon arrival. The purpose of the field day is to demonstrate good forestry and wildlife practices to those attending the event.

Woodswalk at Rick Smith’s Property—Sept. 26:

Rick Smith will host a woodswalk from 1:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m. on his 180-acre property which is 2/3 forested with hardwood trees. In 2000, he planted 1,000 evergreen trees and in 2002, he started an orchard of 140 apple trees and has since learned how to prune them. Last year, he started raising honey bees and has a “bear proof” bee fortress. Rick also has gravity-fed spring water to his house with a re-circulating pond in the backyard; and he has planted wildlife food plots on the property. Tim said we had 41 people attend Ken Comstock’s woodswalk and he feels that is the limit for attendance unless we split into two groups.

Carbon Markets & Carbon Sequestration—August/September:

Tim said that this meeting which is to be held at the Red Fern Inn & Conference Center in St. Marys has not been set up as of yet.

Annual Membership Meeting—Nov. 7:

Rick Smith reported that the Port Allegany American Legion wants \$100.00 for the rental of the facility and \$100.00 for clean up--or we can do the clean-up ourselves and save that fee. The meal would cost \$11.00 which includes 2 meats, two sides and two appetizers or \$12.00 with dessert. It was suggested that Rick should also contact the Port Allegany Moose to get another price.

Elk County Visitors Center:

Lynda Pontzer mentioned that since the Elk Co. Visitors Center in Benezette, Pa. is to be completed this summer, a future board meeting or annual meeting could be held there. Toby Herzing suggested that we wait until next year because there are some issues to be resolved between the Bureau of Forestry which owns the land and the Bureau of Parks which will operate the center.

Newsletter Committee:

Walt Petrick reported that a Newsletter was sent out after the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet and he plans to issue another newsletter after the April 15th Indian Trail Trees event. Walt said that the cost of printing the last two newsletters would have been \$1,271.20 at a commercial printer. While we spent \$827.85 for the new printer and paper, we have already saved \$443.35 by doing our own printing.

There was some discussion about switching from paper newsletters to e-newsletters for those for whom we have e-mail addresses. Tim suggested continuing to send out both e-mail and hard copy newsletters but to include a note in one of the next hard copy newsletters asking members to let us know if they would prefer receiving electronic newsletters.

Website Committee:

Walt Petrick reported that he has added the flyers, the latest meeting minutes and Stan Hess's latest article, "Trees Need Sex Too" to the website. He also mentioned that the website has been very available and stable with over 2,500 hits in the past six months.

Tax Committee:

Dave Lombardo reported that Cameron County did back off on its tax reassessment due to a technicality of not getting the notices out before July 15th. It was positive for forest landowners in Cameron County who saved hundreds of thousands of dollars and who are getting their assessments changed every year while other landowners are not. If a forest landowner's assessment was close to fair market value, it only went up 13%; others got 60% increases. Dave doesn't understand how are they coming up with these calculations when the value of the timber has collapsed. Dave will be going to a meeting in Harrisburg to review the new use values prepared by the Department of Agriculture.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tax Exempt Status Application:

Verda Knowlton reported that we have received a letter from the IRS, dated February 25, 2010, acknowledging receipt of our application.

New Membership Brochure:

Marie will make the suggested changes to the brochure and e-mail to the Board in word document format for review and comment.

WOA Conference Posters:

Marie Petrick prepared a powerpoint presentation to show photographs of the Woodland Owners Associations' posters that were displayed at the Penn State WOA Conference. The posters highlighted the accomplishments of which each organization was most proud. Tim Pierson will have the NCFLA, Inc. poster laminated and he will be using it on March 25th at the Tri-County Extension Board meeting with county commissioners and legislators to be held at the Coudersport Fire Hall Training Center.

New Hats:

Marie brought a sample of the new NCFLA, Inc. hats—one will have a denim blue bill and the other a dark green bill. It was agreed that we will charge \$12.00 each or two hats for \$20.00.

NEW BUSINESS:

Statewide New York Forest Owner's Association:

This item will be tabled until the next Board meeting. However, Tim did provide the Board with the New York Forest Owner's Association website: www.nyfoa.org.

Travel Policy for NCFLA, Inc. Business:

Tim said this subject was put on the agenda so that the Board could establish a travel reimbursement policy for anyone conducting business benefiting the Association. The following policy was agreed upon:

1. A request for travel reimbursement will be submitted to the Board in advance of the event which includes a brief description of the business to be conducted, the benefit to the Association, and the amount of the reimbursement requested.
2. The Board will review the merits of the request in accordance with the balance in the treasury and will vote on whether or not to approve the request on a case-by-case basis.
3. If there is no upcoming Board meeting, the request will be sent out to Board members via e-mail and voted on and an "In Lieu of a Board Meeting" form will be prepared to reflect the decision of the Board.

Motion made by Walt Petrick, seconded by Ken Comstock to approve this policy. Motion carried.

Dave Lombardo mentioned he would like to ask for one night's hotel reimbursement for his meeting with the Agriculture Department in Harrisburg to review the proposed forestry values. Motion made by Ken Comstock, seconded by Rick Smith for Dave Lombardo to bring before the Board a reasonable request for a one-night hotel accommodation for reimbursement. Motion carried.

Motion made by Dave Lombardo to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.; seconded by Rick Smith. Motion carried.

Prepared by,

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary