

NORTHCENTRAL FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

December 16, 2008

9:00 a.m.

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

Directors:

**Lynda Pontzer, Elk Co.
Ken Comstock, Potter Co.
Rick Smith, McKean Co.**

Officers:

**Larry Schultz, President
Marie Petrick, Treasurer
Verda Weder Knowlton, Secretary**

Advisors:

**Tim Pierson, McKean Co. Extension Office
Toby Herzing, DCNR Bur. Of Forestry, Cameron-Elk Co.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Larry Schultz.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Rick Smith, seconded by Marie Petrick to approve the September 9, 2008 minutes which had been sent to all members. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Marie Petrick reported that the balance in the checkbook is \$2,065.08 and the savings account balance is \$1,433.56 (copy attached). Marie said that because there is no activity in the savings account, she periodically receives a notice which has to be signed and returned to the bank to keep the account from being turned over to the state as unclaimed property. After some discussion, a motion was made by Ken Comstock to combine the two accounts, seconded by Rick Smith. Motion carried.

November Annual Banquet:

Marie reported that there were paid reservations in the amount of \$868.00, and \$590.00 received from door prizes. After all expenses were paid, the final cost to the Association for the banquet was \$48.55. (copy attached). Marie asked whether or not the \$150.00 rental charged by the American Legion included a tip. It was agreed that in the future, we need to get something in writing from the facility which addresses both the rental amount and whether or not the dinner cost includes the tip.

Donations to High School Ag Programs with Forestry Component:

This issue will be held for the next board meeting.

Bulk Purchase of Tree Seedlings for Members:

Tim Pierson felt that this could be a real service to members of the Association since there is a big cost savings to purchase seedlings in large quantities and Walt Petrick had offered to handle the ordering and distribution process. After considerable discussion regarding the problems/issues involved, it was agreed that since we are an educational organization, we should just provide information on where to purchase seedlings, rather than actually providing the trees. We will include the information on our website.

Purchasing herbicides in bulk and having it available to members is also a dead issue. Tim Pierson also mentioned that there was very little interest in using the backpack sprayer which Al McCullough had made available. Therefore, the only equipment we have available for cooperative use at this time is the tent.

NEW BUSINESS:

2009 Calendar of Events:

Marie Petrick distributed a copy of an article on “Indian Trail Trees” which explains how the Seneca Indians bent over a hardwood sapling in the direction they wanted to mark and tied it securely to the ground. As the tree continued to grow, the main trunk formed a horizontal arm, usually at a right angle, and then the new vertical shoot developed where the sapling was anchored, leaving a “nose.” (copy of article attached). Marie suggested Lee Ryan, Almond, N.Y., who has tried to photograph and GPS these trail trees as a possible speaker.

Marie also suggested the following topics: programs for kids in the woods; birds of Pa and Pa wildflowers; wildlife camera photos; and ferns, mosses, lichens and liverworts. Tim Pierson said that the Breeding Bird Atlas is in its final year now; he has a very good speaker in mind—a 20-year bird researcher.

Forest Financing, by Ag Choice Farm Credit was also suggested—Verda Knowlton said that Thad Taylor, forester with Ag Choice Farm Credit, has joined our association and would be willing to make a presentation to our members.

Tim Pierson suggested that “Nature Deficit Disorder” is a real problem from a forest management standpoint for the future—Lorraine Jacobs, McKean Co., has programs for youth in this area.

Potato Creek Trail Woodswalk—May 17, 2009:

Tim Pierson said that he is on the board of the Potato Creek Trail Association which has 151 miles of trails around Smethport and we could hold a woodswalk there, with wildflower and bird identification, as well as Indian trail tree identification. Suggested time—1:00-4:00 p.m. We should include a picture of a trail tree on the flyer and ask participants to bring pictures and, if possible, the GPS location of their own trail trees.

Northcentral Forest Landowners Workshop-- June 20, 2009:

This could be held in Emporium at the Woodland School. Tim Pierson suggested estate planning and opportunities for trusts where the objectives of the landowner can be carried out; conservation easements and donation of land for educational purposes could also be workshop topics. Toby Herzing suggested the “Gas Wells and Drinking Water” presentation by Jim Clark.

Summer Membership Meeting & Picnic—July 11, 2009:

Larry spoke with Ken Cogan and he will be happy to host the picnic again.

Sagamore Hunt Club Woodswalk:

They are located in Elk Co. and would like to host another woodswalk; Tim Pierson will contact them to see if we can schedule this for a Saturday in August or September.

Woodswalk at Ken Comstock's—October 4, 2009:

Ken mentioned that he has 100 acres of nice timber cut 20 years ago which now has trails. Time: 1:00 pm to 5:00 p.m. The first hour and a half would be tree and log measurements; then a break for a “picnic in the woods” with a fire and hot dogs; and the last hour and a half for the woodswalk.

Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet—November 1, 2009:

The Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet will be held in Elk County, at the Red Fern Inn in St. Marys. The Banquet Committee: Lynda Pontzer and Tim Pierson, who will reserve the hall and caterer. The business meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. with dinner to follow at 1:30 p.m. Tim Pierson will get the speaker.

Incorporation Update:

The Northcentral Forest Landowners Association was incorporated on March 19, 2008. The next step is to get the revised draft Corporate Bylaws approved by the membership. Approved bylaws are needed for submission with the tax exempt status application.

Corporate Bylaws Revision:

Tim Pierson asked whether Article XII Transaction of Business, Item #4 Prohibited Activities, would prevent the association from participating in activities such as providing input into the development of a wood ethanol facility in the region which could utilize as much as one million tons of woody biomass. It was felt that this section generally applies to influencing legislation and campaigning on behalf of political candidates.

It was agreed that we mail the proposed bylaws out ahead of time, with all the changes highlighted, and print them back-to-back to conserve paper. We will include a covering letter explaining why the revisions were needed, the date and location of the membership meeting at which any questions or concerns will be discussed prior to voting on the proposed bylaws.

The membership bylaws meeting will be scheduled for a Sunday afternoon--either February 8, 2009 or February 22, 2009--from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Port Allegany—either at the American Legion, the High School Auditorium or the Vo Tech. We will have a speaker such as Paul Roth, DCNR Bureau of Forestry, on the subject of “Carbon Sequestration” for first hour and 45 minutes with a 15 minute break and then at 3:00 p.m., have the draft bylaws discussion and vote.

2009 Elections:

Larry Schultz announced that he will not run for President next year, since he has held the position for the past eight years. He feels it is time for someone else to take over. Anyone else not willing to run again should let the Nominating Committee know as soon as possible. Larry will ask Al McCullough, Walt Petrick and Jane Cogan to again serve on the Nominating Committee, unless they want to appear on the ballot.

The nominating petition will be sent along with the picnic notice. Nominations may be returned at the picnic business meeting but the final date for return of all nominations is September 1, 2009.

The election ballots would be sent out by September 15 with a return date of October 24, 2009. The Nominating Committee will count the ballots and report the results of the election to the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet to be held on November 1, 2009.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ginseng Workshops:

Tim Pierson reported that there are no ginseng workshops scheduled next year.

“Tree Values—Wood, Water and Wildlife”:

Ken Comstock said that he took his teenage grandkids into the woods, and what captured their interest was when they learned about the value of a cherry 16-foot veneer log. Tim said that when he conducts tree value training with kids, he picks 4 trees: a 14” diameter black cherry; a 20-24” red/sugar maple; a giant hemlock and one other species. He has the kids measure them, figure out how many 16-foot logs there are and then rank them based on which is worth: the most money, the most value to wildlife, and which is the most valuable in water transpiration. They learn that hemlock is extremely valuable from a wildlife standpoint and in controlling a watershed.

Next Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at the McKean County Extension Office, Smethport, Pa. at 9:00 a.m.

Motion made by Marie Petrick to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m., seconded by Ken Comstock. Motion carried .

Submitted by:

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary

Attachments (3)