

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting

September 8, 2009

9:00 a.m.

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

Directors:

Richard Smith, McKean Co.

Ken Comstock, Potter Co.

Lynda Pontzer, Elk Co.

Dave Lombardo, Cameron Co.

Officers:

Larry Schultz, President

Marie Petrick, Treasurer

Verda Weder Knowlton, Secretary

Advisor:

Tim Pierson, McKean Co. Extension Office

Service Forester:

Toby Herzing

Guest:

Walt Petrick, Webmaster

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by President Larry Schultz. Larry reported that Stan Hess is unable to attend today.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Rick Smith, seconded by Marie Petrick to approve the March 9, 2009 minutes which had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Marie Petrick reported that the balance at the beginning of the year was \$4,242.64 with total receipts from memberships of \$2345.00 and expenses in the amount of \$935.86 leaving a balance in the checkbook of \$5651.86 as of August 31, 2009. (copy attached) She also reported that 85.29% of our membership has currently paid their 2009 dues.

Committee Reports:

Nominating Committee:

Larry Schultz is chairing this committee and reported that we had 40 different nominations, all of whom were contacted regarding their willingness to run. Of the 5 nominations for President, Tim Pierson is the only nominee willing to run; Vice President—Walt Petrick and Francis Crew; Secretary—Verda Knowlton; Treasurer—Marie Petrick. Board of Directors: Elk—Linda Pontzer; Cameron—Dave Lombardo; McKean—Rick Smith; and Potter Co.—Ken Comstock and Tom Leete. The ballot will have a space for write-in votes for each office (copy attached). The Nominating Committee did not make any nominations since we had candidates for all the offices. The suggestion made to send out a short resume on each candidate running for office with the ballot will be considered for the next election cycle.

Website:

Walt Petrick reported that the NCFLA website mail server was closed down so he has set up a new NCFLA website on G-Mail (ncfla2@gmail.com). Stan Hess had suggested that we have an article on the tent caterpillar on the main web page so Walt added a second page for “Old Items of Interest,” moved the Emerald Ash Borer article there and added the new information on the home page. He also added a link to the article on the Smethport Woody Biomass Project published the Biomass Magazine. Tim Pierson suggested adding a link to Penn State’s calendar of events since they are having a round of “Re-framing Extension Programs” around the state. There is already a link to “Forest Leaves”.

Walt said we have had 1,400 visits to our website since last March; however, no one has sent us any emails.

OLD BUSINESS:**Tax Exempt Status:**

Larry reported that Marie, Verda and he met with Tim Gooch, CPA for Parente-Randolph to fill out the application. Mr. Gooch indicated that it will take some time as the IRS frequently asks for additional clarification—could be 6 weeks to 6 months. Once we have the status, we can take donations that would be tax free for the donor. Verda will check with Mr. Gooch re: status of the application.

Educational Causes NCFLA Will Support:

Dave Lombardo said we need to establish written guidelines defining the type of organizations to which we would make donations. Larry suggested a \$200.00 limit as the budget permits. Dave Lombardo and Tim Pierson will draft guidelines for the next board meeting regarding NCFLA donations. Once approved, these will be added to the Corporate Operations Procedures Manual.

Statewide Landowner’s Association:

Stan Hess put this on the agenda for the last board meeting and it was brought forward to this meeting. However, Stan was unable to be present today so this issue will be tabled until the next board meeting.

November 1st Annual Membership Meeting & Banquet:

The meeting will be held at the Red Fern Conference Center near St. Marys; Tim Pierson is working on getting the speaker. The smaller banquet room will cost \$200.00 with no downpayment needed. Lynda Pontzer will contact them again to get a new menu; we want two entrees and two vegetables and we will take funds from the treasury to keep the cost at \$15.00 per person. We usually have 60-70 persons attending. We will again include “donations of door prizes will be appreciated” on the flyer but will put it in a larger text. Larry Schultz will purchase some forestry equipment and Lynda Pontzer will get another chainsaw bear carving at a cost of around \$100.00. The meeting will begin at Noon with dinner at 12:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:**Best Practices Conference for Woodland Owner's Associations—Nov. 21, 2009:**

The Conference will be held at Penn State from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and four attendees per association are permitted. Walt and Marie Petrick will already be there for the Steering Committee so they will be attending along with Verda and Roy Knowlton. There is a \$10.00 per person conference registration fee—Linda Pontzer made motion to have the NCFLA cover the cost of the registration fee for our four representatives, seconded by Rick Smith. Motion carried.

Marie Petrick said that each WOA is to prepare a 36" x 46" poster depicting what their association is most proud of which will be printed on a plotter at a cost of \$10.00. Marie prepared a poster for our Association based on the comments received from the membership at the Annual Picnic meeting. The Board agreed that Marie did an excellent job and the poster will be submitted for printing with only minor changes.

Election Procedures:

Larry Schultz reviewed the revised Election Procedures which now requires an added line for write-in candidates under each officer/director position on the ballot and extends the ballot mailing date to September 20th (copy attached). All write-in candidates will be contacted by the Nominating Committee to ascertain their willingness to serve. A suggestion was made to include a short resume on each candidate with the ballot; however, since we have a short time-frame in which to get the ballots out this year, we will consider doing this for future elections.

Verda Knowlton has ordered a red self-inking "Ballot" stamp for use on the postage-paid return envelopes to insure that the ballots are given to the Nominating Committee unopened as required by our bylaws.

Newsletter Production:

Larry Schultz announced that Stan Hess is retiring as Newsletter editor so the Association will begin preparing the newsletter. Walt Petrick suggested that the Vice President should have the responsibility of overseeing the production and distribution of the Newsletter. Walt volunteered to be the Interim Editor of the Newsletter and the Newsletter Committee will also consist of: Larry Schultz, Marie Petrick and Verda Knowlton. Walt Petrick has located a 4-color LASER printer for \$400.00 with large printer cartridges which could produce black and white copies at 12 cents each and color at 27 cents each. We could then produce our newsletter in-house and two issues would pay for it. Dave Lombardo suggested that in the future, we could go electronic with the newsletter, but could still mail it to those who wanted a hard copy. Motion made by Verda Knowlton to purchase the LASER printer for the Association; seconded by Ken Comstock. Motion carried.

Program Committee:

Verda Knowlton suggested that we should set up a Program Committee which would have responsibility for scheduling programs. Walt suggested that the Vice President could chair this committee. Tim suggested that another responsibility of the committee should be to take photographs of every NCFLA event and then send photos to each of the newspapers in the 4-county area with a short paragraph explaining the nature of the event. Motion made by Dave Lombardo to set up a Program Committee, seconded by Rick Smith. Motion carried.

The Program Committee will consist of Marie Petrick, Ken Comstock and Rick Smith with Tim Pierson serving as Chairman and Walt Petrick as Co-chairman.

Future Woodswalks:**Woodswalk at Mat Miller's—Sept. 19:**

Tim Pierson distributed copies of the flyer for Part 2 of the woodswalk which will feature "Marking Low Grade Trees for TSI and Firewood" and a horse logging demonstration (copy attached). Marie Petrick will bring refreshments.

Woodswalk at Ken Comstock's –October 4:

The woodswalk is scheduled from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and will feature "Utilizing Your Own Hardwoods in Your Construction" and "Understanding Forestry Terminology" such as tolerance, tree dominance, why trees are growing on certain soils and aspects, sizes and proportions of the crown, etc. Tim Pierson will provide the handout. At 4:00 p.m., Ken wants to have a hot dog roast over an open fire--Tim will bring the hot dogs, rolls and long skewers; Ken will provide the condiments; and Marie will bring drinks, chips, paper plates and napkins. The Knowltons and Petricks will bring their Kawasaki Mule Transports to provide transportation for the attendees during the tour.

NCFLA, Inc. Hats:

We have been getting requests from members for NCFLA hats. Tim Pierson's secretary, Shirley, has a contact in Emporium and she will get that information to Verda. It was suggested that we order 200 hats, with at least 50 in a darker color.

Maurice Goddard Award:

Larry Schultz announced that Ken and Jane Cogan have been notified that they will be receiving the Goddard Award which is given to a tree farmer promoting good forestry management--we should arrange for it to be given out at the November 1, 2009 Annual Membership meeting.

Next Board Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled board meeting will be held on December 15, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the McKean County Extension Office in Smethport, Pa.

Motion made by Linda Pontzer to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dave Lombardo. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by,

Verda Weder Knowlton
Secretary

Attachments (4)

CC: Walt Petrick, Webmaster