

Friends of Whitefish Dunes, Inc.
3275 Clark Lake Rd., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 5-18-22

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Jim Perry, Don Gustafson, and Max Martin. Guest: Mike Bergum (Regional Parks Manager for NE Wisconsin)

Absent: Sarah Stepanik, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, and Erin Brown Stender.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President John Swanson at 4:02 pm.

Agenda: Motion to approve the meeting agenda: Dick; second, Max. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve Minutes of 4-20-22: Susan; second, Adele. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

Income: \$22,263.25

Expenses: 1,562.21

- Sales are beginning to pick up.
- Donation from Wick Foundation came in.
- Final payment on tractor made.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Susan; second, Dick. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- April saw 6,160 visitors, which is 4,682 less than 2021, and 877 less than average.

Updates:

- Sam Gellerup started May 16 as the full-time LTE VSA.
- Brynna will begin her split-time Naturalist/PRS roles May 18.
- 1st Beach access, drinking fountains, and bathrooms are now open for the season.
- Buoys will be put in the lake prior to Memorial Day.
- Summer Hours:
 - Nature Center (as of 5/19): M, W, Th, F, Sa - 9-4; Sunday and Tuesday: CLOSED
 - Contact Station (as of 5/27): Fri & Sat 10-3; Sun 10-4

Park Manager Projects:

- Dune Etiquette signs have arrived and will be installed by Memorial Day.
- The new aquatic invasive species tank is up. We are working to add some Zebra and Quagga mussels, as well as Rusty crayfish to the tank. Wendy Wagner will design some interpretive signs to display near the tank to help educate visitors about aquatic invasives.
- Cave Point Trail reroute: No update at this time.
- We hope to install some kind of rope barrier across the Red Trail and part of the Yellow/Green trail to discourage people from driving on these trails. The Park staff will still be able to access these trails when needed for maintenance.

Trail Ambassadors (Doug):

- Picnic for Trail Ambassadors is scheduled for June 7.

Membership Committee (Susan):

- Renewals have been sent out and are starting to come back.
- E-News has been sent out.

Old Business:Tractor:

- John moved that the Friends of Whitefish Dunes transfer ownership of the Bobcat Tractor to the Wisconsin DNR with the understanding that it will be primarily housed at Whitefish Dunes State Park. Second: Susan. All in favor.
- Natural Resources Board has to accept this, so we will own and insure the tractor for the next few months.
- Training will be needed for those wanting to drive tractor. Need to drive 10 hours/year to retain certification.

Naturalist Funding:

- Last meeting we voted to contribute \$1,000 toward Naturalist. John had applied for a Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Incentive Grant in February for \$3,500, which we received. This is a matching grant, and we are able to use this for a Naturalist.

Motion to accept this grant and contribute \$3,500 toward the Naturalist: Dick; second, Jim. All in favor.

Community Foundation:

- The Ad-hoc Committee is interested in setting up a fund with Door County Community Foundation, memorializing Carl Scholz and benefitting the Whitefish Dunes State Park. We need to choose a name for the fund, create a fund description, and meet with the Foundation to set up this fund. We also will need to set up a signature arrangement.

Motion to approve the name of Friends of Whitefish Dunes Carl Scholz Memorial Fund: Rich; second, Don. All in favor.

Pollinator Garden: The pollinator garden has reached capacity. Don added 50 plants this spring.

Project List:

- Brachiopod Trail Interpretive Signage: Wendy presented a second phase of conceptual designs. Timeline for completion is April 2023.
- ADA Parking Lot: Biologist should be able to see and identify endangered plants soon.
- Nature Center Kiosk: Frame in place and roof on.
- EV Charging Station (recap): John Hippensteel determined there was enough power to run 3 2-station level 2 chargers, which could be expanded going forward. DNR needs to decide on policies and procedures.
- Old Baldy stair rails: John talked to a contractor who plans to take a look at the project.
- Taxidermy Mounts (Rich): Rich spoke to Mike Orthober, who is overwhelmed with work at this point. He thinks the fisher might be not viable. Rich will talk to him again in fall.
- Cave Point Access Trail: We still need to have Mike come back to mark trail and let us know what to do.

New Business:

- Clothing: Inventory is probably good through June.
- Shop table saw: We initially thought it was the radial arm saw that was broken, but it is the table saw. Max will try to replace the motor. Also discussed replacing radial arm saw with a motorized miter saw.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Don; second Susan. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned by John Swanson at 5:10. The next meeting is on Wednesday, June 15 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary