

**Friends of the Wapsi River Center Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**Gander Mountain**

Present: Jessica Steines, Mike Granger, Carol Rogers, Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski, Bob Bryant, K.J. Rebarcak, Jim Ross, Ingrid Bogdanowicz and Erma Wiszmann

Minutes: Approved as mailed.

Treasurer's Report: \$6,388.72 in bank account. There is \$910 memorial for Dottie plus some interest received. Various ideas were expressed in how to use the money to honor Dottie. Ideas were: do something with education, place a bench with her name on the grounds, do a scholar ship, erect a display, purchase supplies for classrooms, update our Wapsi Welcome sign to include Dottie and friends, set up a nature thing at a school library with a reading trail, do something with a multi media specialist, think about a computer kiosk.

Staff Report: Presently are short on staff. Leroy is off. Aaron will be off 12/19 to 1/17. Jamie Meyer will help with Bald Eagle days and then be off. Dave is evaluating staffing budgeting for outcomes. At the Pond have an educational structure being built. Leroy put up a snow fence to block west wind from across the neighbor's field. A group called Wisdom Seekers (home school) worked on clearing some brush along the road. The woodland bridge has been removed and eventually a new bridge will be built. A boy scout built an observation deck out by the observatory. Redtail kitchen is being rebuilt with a serving window. It will be finished in January. Staffs have been trained in how to deal with the Dorm fire alarm. Huber's have donated some geodes and fossil lepidodendron to the center. The bird feeder program was cancelled due to lack of interest. Dave had chest pains and went to the doctor. Work is in progress for the next WREN. Subjects covered are Wild Grape, Northern Pike, and a tribute to Dottie. The state extension office has approved the Wapsi Center for a master conservationist program. The first class will be held in February 2012. It will cover geology, soil, a river float, urban ecology. Will involve 30 hours of classroom time and 32 hours of volunteer time. This will include Nahant Marsh, the Van Fossen property, Sherman Park and Wapsi Center. This will be a college level class. The Van Fossen property is approximately 1700 acres of public land access. We need volunteers for Bald Eagle Days. Winter fun day has been changed from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of February. K.J. moved that we have a Friends meeting in January to plan for winter fun day. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lucia. Motion Carried. The Grant Lucia is developing hopefully will be submitted in the spring. There is a book on the Rochester Cemetery, called the life and death of the Prairie by Steven Longmeire (spelling?). Host list was passed around as well as eagle day volunteer sheet. Suggestions were made to label the birds on display. Mice in the Building were debated. Bob reported some money he received for his retirement from Shellie Tague has not been spent yet. Bob suggested buying a microscope to take pictures. Bob showed some examples of pics taken at Nahant Marsh. Friends appreciate his request for input.

**Next Meeting is Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Gander Mountain 7:00 P.M.**