

Friends of the Wapsi Center Minutes

Gander Mountain Store

January 19th, 2012

Present: Carol Rogers, Mike Granger, Dave Murcia, KJ Rebarcak, Jessica and Noell Steines, Bob Bryant, Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski and Erma Wiszmann

Minutes: Approved as mailed, Moved by Carol, 2nd by Bill and Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Bank Checkbook balance 6481.63. Received \$60 more for the Dottie Memorial. Memorial total is \$980.00. Treasurer's Report also includes CD's.

Staff Report: Dave Murcia is absent last meeting was caused by heart problem. Lisa and Aaron are back. Jamie will be back in April. Friday toured Augustana's Fryxell and Rock Island's Hallberg Museum's. Hosts, if can't make your signed tour please call Leroy or Dave Murcia. Jessica reported Clinton County wants to hire another naturalist. They are waiting County Board approval. Without more help well have trouble holding commitments. Rock Creek Center will open soon. Budget was submitted today. They still need some new equipment. At the Wapsi Center the new pond platform has been constructed. Need to add a railing. We are looking to take down hazardous trees from the grounds. These do not include Walnut or Oak. We will only take down trees that are leaning with focus on trails. Red tail Kitchen is done. Have a new ceiling and floor, counter, microwave lights and serving window. We think it is mouse proof. All plumbing and rewiring also are done. At the Dorm the woodpeckers are back going for beetles. The fish tank lights work - you must hold down longer on the turtle and frog lights. Have new rocks and geodes and fossils for sale in the gift shop. Please keep the turtle room door closed for heat. At the Kestrel cabin all renters are to take food away. KJ requested staff to provide hosts with one book with all instructions. WREN is out which Carol brought a photo album which included a great memory item of our friend Dottie Wala. Carol will check with Jerry Wala about ideas for a memorial at our center. In December we had two school groups out and did 6 groups off site. Winter Fun Day is scheduled for February 11th, 2012. When we have requests for skies or snow shoes friends are asked to take a License and return when group returns from outing. The equipment can only be used from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. so host can leave on time at 4:30 P.M. Winter Fun Day is planned. We are working on plans for Earth Day in April - we will be planning a fun kid's day theme - with a program on Bobcats and Lynxes, Bird pellets and an art contest. We are looking at giving away some prizes. We also want to do a program that scouts could come to. New Friends members need to fill out an authorization form. Regarding the Dottie Memorial - we discussed the possibilities of a "playscape" which would have natural play items, and expose kids to the outdoors. Bob Bryant talked about scopes that we use with a camera and lighting etc. Bob will work with the EDIWILD Program. On February 6th Bob might be at the center to look at some of the equipment. The new bird feeder holds lots of seed. It does include a listening device that produces a lot of static. Hosts please note the snow by the doors. Ice melt and a shovel are provided, plus brooms. Iowa DNR is holding a Woman in the outdoors program. Bob returned a slide scanner which Nahant used to scan 3,000 slides from Jim Hodges. Bob's eagle count totaled 39 eagles and estimated 12 roosting at the Wapsi River Center. Snowy owls have been seen in Clinton County.

Next Meeting - Thursday, February 16th, 7:00 P.M. at Gander Mountain