

Friends of the Wapsi EE Center Minutes
June 19th, 2014 – 5:30 P.M. – Scott County Park (Whispering Pines Shelter)

Present: Carol Rogers, Ingrid Bogdanowicz, Bill Robbins, Lucia Dryanski, Mike Granger and Erma Wiszmann. Dave Murcia was on vacation.

Minutes: Approved as mailed.

Treasurer's Report: Bank Balance 8,988.38 – plus 2 CD's. Have pop money and donations to deposit

Staff Report: Hiring a full time Naturalist – have many applications and are reviewing for applications. Seasonal naturalist Emily is married. Dave and Mike have ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate). We may be getting more snakes and turtles and frogs from Davenport Parks and Rec. With the storm we have had a lot of damaged trees down, trails blocked and security light broken. We are removing some of the old latrines from the Boy Scout days. A scout is going to be building a large bat house. The septic wastes from the Dormitory are meeting state requirements. The Kestrel cabin is complete and fitted out. EDIWILD is cancelled due to low registration numbers. 20 is the minimum with only 14 registered. Next year we may offer a 1 credit (15 hour) course. May was a busy month with 18 groups at the center and 11 groups offsite. The Wapsi River Center received a Community Transformation Grant to fund 30 emergency trail markers and a Canoe/Kayak Rack. Clinton County will hold their hunter's education camp at our facilities.

Upcoming events include a Kayaking program at West Lake Park, a Rocket program at the Eldridge library, a Booth at the Freight House Farmer's Market. Luca moved the Friends to print brochures to hand out during the event. 2nd by Erma – Motion Carried.

We have a new Screech Owl from SOAR, which has a wing injury and is an intermediate in color. The WALA memorial plaque is still in the works. The previously approved Wildlife Habitat Certification has been received. Carol will write a check to the county to reimburse them for paying for the certification. Carol moved for the re-election of officers. Erma 2nd. Motion Carried. The Friends decided to commandeer a portion of the Bulletin board at the Nature Center. A bat study was carried out at the Nature Center. Researchers caught 8 of the 9 species of bats present in Iowa. They did not find the endangered Indiana Bat at the Wapsi Center. The Scout Bat House project will be as large as the bird feeder in back of the Nature Center. Bats will be able to fly in and out. Discussion continued about revitalizing the Friends and recruitment. Hosts please make entries in the register whether or not visitors are at the center while hosting.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, July 17th – 6:00 P.M. at the Wapsi River Center.