



Walworth/Jefferson County Chapter

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Publicity Vince Lazzaroni – vince.lazzaroni@gmail.com

Monthly Chapter Meeting Every 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, at US Bank, Elkhorn

SEPTEMBER 2015 Newsletter

Minutes for the August 18, 2015 Monthly Meeting

Members and Guests in Attendance: Barb Converse, Jerome Converse, Eileen Harris, Karen Helwig, Rob Holschuh, Dale Jefchak, Gary Klatt, Bill Knickrehm, Lynn Larson, Vince Lazzaroni, Barb Leetzow, Ron Nacker, Judy Wildermuth and Andy Whitney.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Andy Whitney at 7:06 p.m.

Hospitality: Thanks to Barb Converse for a nice assortment of goodies and ice cream cake and beverages for the meeting. Happy Birthday Andy!!

Newsletter: The August 2015 Newsletter was accepted as minutes of the July 2015 chapter meeting. We should change the hiking groups to Helwig Hikers.

Treasurer's Report: Judy presented the treasurer's report for the past month. Income was \$30.99 from interest, a \$20 donation from a hiker on the Dorothy Carnes Park Hike, and a \$20 donation for a shuttle. Expenses were \$8.42 for oil for snapper mower, \$2.88 for mouse killer (for inside storage area), \$50 for a gas card, and a \$4,000 donation to the Ice Age Trail Alliance towards their operating expenses. Total funds were at \$ 12,521.20. Dale made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Vince seconded it. All approved.

Announcements: Give your Sentry receipts to Gary K. and empty ink cartridges and old cell phones to Barb C. for fundraising. Andy said that he has been working with Mike Wollmer on plans to honor the DNR for their efforts. We plan on inviting a group of current and retired DNR personnel to the regional rally and presenting them with a plaque and a leaf on the giving tree. Eric Sherman is going to be covering Mammoth Tails now that Jamie Fisher has left (moved back "home"). He needs us to send him our activities from June-August with photos. It needs to be in by September 4. Vince will talk to Nancy about doing this. It could be relatively easy for her as she already posts paragraphs and photos on the Facebook page about events. Uline would like to have their fall hike on October 10 from Rice Lake to Olson Cabin. This is the only date that Liz can make it. However, Mike Wollmer and others will be at the already scheduled board meeting. The hike will be about 10 miles in length.

New Business: We had a discussion about upcoming speakers. Dan Watson could possibly speak to our chapter in January. Barb C. suggested a power point on Poisonous Plants. Jerome suggested a talk from Northern Pipeline, a natural gas line on safety. Jared Urban from the DNR is suggesting we do something about the water erosion around Bald Bluff. He is in charge of state natural areas. There is a natural area near there. It will need a major reroute or a structure made out of wood such as steps. Jerome suggested cribbing with stones. Alternate routes may be scouted in the fall

when the leaves are off the trees. Gary will talk to Tim. Jerome will talk to Don Dane. People are also using a trail from the top that they are not supposed to be using. Andy will take a look at the fence to try to keep folks where they belong. A discussion at the September meeting will occur. Andy was exploring ideas for fund raising. He has been exploring the idea to print some T-shirts with the weekly hikers in mind. The group shirt will contain "Helwig's Hikers" on them. Some groups are working concession stands at gatherings such as Farm Tech Days. The nonprofit group provides x number of volunteers for a day of the event. Barb C. will see how something like that is run in Marshall, WI soon.

Upcoming Events: There is a big MSC Project up at Lapham Peak August 18-23 with boardwalks and new trail to build per Gary K. REI is a sponsor and they give away items to volunteers. Camping and meals are available. Carpooling may be available. Try this out! September 11-13 is camping at Point Beach SF near Two Rivers. Eileen is the contact person and there are 4 campsites booked and events include campfires, a hike led by Dolly McNulty, bicycle riding, cooking, and good comradery. There is a conflict though. There is a Mammoth Hunt at the Elkhorn Library on September 12. We need some volunteers.

On-Going business: Vince had no news to report. Nancy was not present tonight. Andy will start posting a photo of the day on our site. Bonnie N. was not present tonight so there was not an adopter program update nor a Blaze Crew update. Jerome gave an equipment report. He foresees 3 equipment projects. . He would like more 27 inch rachet bypass loppers. They were \$27 each in Janesville. This project will be put on a back burner until we figure out a quantity needed. The mower clutch direct drive is \$281.14. Jerome could install it in the off season. The old clutch worked 5 years. As this is a safety issue without this being fixed, a motion was passed to spend the money on the part needed. Equipment project #3 was involves replacing the Trilobe. Wherever you can walk you can use this piece of equipment. It is \$1189 with a 10% discount) currently. We would have to check with the head office due to the expense of this. With the trilobe you can cut wood and grass. This will be tabled until September. Jerome will keep the equipment running in the meantime. We can check to see if the DNR has extras not being used. Jerome would also like a spare wheel for the trailer in case we get a flat or a blowout. They cost \$38 at Farm & Fleet or Northern. Gary K. made a motion for the purchase of a spare wheel. All approved.

Past Events: Russ's Memorial Hike was well attended with about 50 people on a nice day. There was about 50 people in attendance at Casual Joe's later. The waitress hugged Andy on the way out. July 28 we had Ingrid's bench dedication with her family in attendance. Nancy gave a little talk. There were lots of little family members. The event was very special and emotional. The family was very appreciative. Photos were shown of the events. Judy talked about the August 1 hike on the trail at Dorothy Carnes Park NW of Fort Atkinson. There were lots of interesting plants in the prairie area. We had a potluck complete with a grill at a park in town. We are talking about doing more events in Jefferson County. Ron talked about the August 8 paddle in Madison's Cherokee Marsh from the put in by Wheeler and Sherman Rd. There were only 3 people that attended. Ron N. said it was very nice but a lot of lotus at that time of year. August 14 some of our volunteers guided a hike for a group of 15 from Midwest Environmental Advocates. Gary K. said the supplied the volunteers with lunch. It was a very hot day. They donated \$100 to the chapter and \$100 in a membership as one of the participants joined the IATA. Four went to La Grange Store afterward for ice cream. July 22-26 was IAT U training. Andy went to leadership training. We are doing a lot of things already. They hit on planning fundraisers. Any money we make can help the alliance or be used to purchase tools. We are a good chapter per Andy. Lodi voted for an identical donation of \$4,000 and they voted it down. Our donation along with recognizing DNR members has a lot of other chapters talking. On August 15 there was the 3rd annual get together at Sandy and Andy's with the Piper Road Spring Band. About 50 people were in attendance. The fire was pretty with the flares.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m. The next meeting will be September 15 with hospitality by Lynn Larson.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesdays at 4:00 pm &
Wednesdays at 10:30 am

Weekly Walks: Join Russ and others for a hike on the IAT or other nearby trails. Meet at the Hwy. 12 IAT crossing and parking lot, 5 miles east of Whitewater. Contact person: Andy Whitney, 262-949-0286