

**Lake Roland Nature Council
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2019**

Attendees: Kurt Davis, Elise Butler, Jeffrey Budnitz, Peter Lev, Ranger Jonathan Wood

President Kurt Davis opened the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Treasurers' Report: Jeffrey Budnitz provided the following figures:

***Current Assets are \$29,800.89

***Fixed Assets total \$364,527.64

***Total Assets are \$394,328.53

***Current Liabilities are \$149,484.00

***Equity \$244,844.53

Recreation and Parks Staff Report: Ranger Jonathan Wood gave the following report:

Kelly Hilton demoted herself from 29 hrs./wk to monthly staff so she can devote more time to school. It's always a struggle to staff the park, as people move to other jobs and the hiring process is slow.

Unruly park visitors—for example screaming at rangers for one reason or another—is a fairly frequent problem. We discussed buying lapel cameras for rangers. Jonathan will check with Rec. and Parks. If lapel cameras are permitted, rangers will need to follow police protocols, which include telling people they are being filmed.

Dwight Johnson scheduled a Sunday walk for the MAEOE meeting without checking with Jonathan. EC expressed concern about where the group will park. We value a good relationship with Sunnyfields. Also, if the group is larger than 12 a ranger must be present.

Environmental and Historic Preservation Report: Elise said that the drone photography by Nathan Travis of Century Engineering went extremely well. It was a perfect day, with little wind. Elise will pick up the data from Nathan later this week.

We discussed how to ask Century to survey the area behind the Nature Center. Jeffrey described GPS Backpack, which can survey a property as well or better than traditional surveying. It requires placing markers on the ground as reference points. Winter is the time to do this work, but perhaps it would be easier on dry or even frozen ground. Elise will talk to Jim Flannery on how to proceed.

Trails (and related) Report: Jeffrey said that little outdoor work has been done because of all the rain. During a break in the weather 42 tons of stone was put down on the entry path to the meadow/old rugby field.

A load of plastic pipe was illegally dumped on part of the Falls Rd. parking area. It was picked up and put in a park dumpster by park staff.

Ticketing for the signed "No Parking" area on Falls Rd. began Jan. 1 after a 3-month warning period. Kurt said there were outraged reactions on the Mt. Washington listserv.

Jeffrey and Jonathan talked about the need for a high-quality blower/vacuum to remove leaves from lawns and parking lots. The County's contractor does some of this but does not get to everything. Leaves accumulate along fence lines, get wet and sticky, and are very hard to remove. For example, Paw Point fences are a problem. The blower/vacuum would cost about \$3500 (after discount) with a needed accessory adding \$300-400. EC unanimously approved.

Nature Center Landscape Design: We discussed next steps for this project: the removal of invasives and the identification and marking of desirable plants. Ed Brady should be helpful on plant ID. Howdy Knipp will probably retire at the end of the school year, and if so he'd be a great person to take over the Weed Warriors program. Howdy is particularly focused on cutting vines.

Audit: Scheduled for Jan. 4. Kurt and Elise will do the audit.

Membership letter: We discussed how to balance membership renewal and fundraising in the letter. Elise suggested the emphasis should be on renewing membership, with a last paragraph encouraging donations. Kurt said the draft letter he wrote some weeks ago was more about donations, but he can use some of that draft in a membership letter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Minutes taken by Peter Lev.