



LNC EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES 2/28/2012

Call to Order: Lawrence Nature Center Education Committee meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Attendance: Six were present: Janet Kane, Rick Dutko, Helen Dutko, Linda Townsend, Mike Baicker (LHS student President of SAVE who presented their Organic Garden plans), and Sue Herrmann. Anne Demarais was excused due to illness.

Minutes: A few changes were made to January's minutes regarding committees; they will be revised for the Web site. The balance of the Minutes were approved as written.

Old Business:

1. **Brochure revisions** are in progress.
2. **Tree identification on LNC property and Arbor Day Walk** will be on 4/27/12 at 6:30 pm and co-sponsored by FLNC and Lawrence Township Shade Tree Advisory Committee. Plans are for refreshments + tree literature/ discussion at end. Rick and Janet are working on a tri-fold brochure for the public tree walks. Rick has hung three brochure boxes at trailheads and kiosk. One more will be hung. We discussed the possibility of ordering individual tree signs. We are waiting for a list of trees first, then we will review which trees should have signs before making a proposal to the FLNC Board to purchase signs. Individual tree ID signs may cost about \$7.25 each.
3. **Laptop computer** is still with John. Anne will pick it up and give it to Rick to download photos and documents. Then the laptop will be rotated among officers until the locking mechanisms are in place at LNC.
4. **Green Mapping Grant from Sustainable Jersey** - meeting held on Jan 25, 2012. Sue & Virginia attended, Tahirih and others from SL presented.
5. **Scout project** - trail kiosk was built by Ryan Persichilli, his father and another adult. Sue took many photos. All were downloaded on LNC Google site [Picasa](#).
6. **Temple University Doctoral candidate, Sherry Schweighardt**, spoke at LNC on Feb 11, 2012 to a small audience of five. Many questions were asked during her presentation, and it seemed very lively + successful. A summary of her talk will be prepared for the Board and possibly to go on the Web site. Sherry's Resource sheet is available for LNC visitors, educators, FLNC and Board at the Nature Center. We very much appreciate her talk, and possibly, Sherry will speak again during the spring or summer. She has so much knowledge to share. One fun idea she has for a Summer Family Night talk is backpacking.

Summary of New Business:

1. **Michael Baicker from SAVE** - presented the LHS Organic Garden plans that need some revision according to LHS maintenance manager; he feels there may be a problem



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using pesticides so close to the school and because the vegetables will be donated to others to eat. There was much positive discussion of other approved school gardens in Lawrence and other towns. The mere name "Organic" means that no pesticides will be used until other options of pest control are first tried. The committee strongly supports the organic garden in the HS library courtyard location. The LNC Education Committee/ Friends of the Lawrence Nature Center were asked to write a letters of support and clarification for the SAVE and STEM Organic Garden. We will have it ready by the March 14, 2012 FLNC meeting. Michael Baicker, SAVE President, will get us the name and address of the person to whom our letter should be sent.

2. **Ben Franklin School Courtyard, Outdoor Classroom and Observation area** - Principal Chris Turnbull wrote to the LNC Gmail address. Sue Herrmann forwarded the note to Rick + Steve, and Rick met with the principal on 2/28/12. Rick shared his ideas for a native plant garden(s), various plant species, birds, butterflies, rocks, water source; they established the fact that LNC would be responsible for only information and ideas this year. Perhaps in the future, LNC and a few TCNJ educators could teach some classes in BFS outside Classroom, and maybe TCNJ undergraduate student teachers could assist. This will be discussed with everyone involved.
3. **Furniture donations** were offered to FLNC: Desk and matching credenza; and three oak + glass display cases. Discussion followed regarding glass display cabinets inside the nature center and their safety. Steve Groeger and the donor of the displays will be contacted by Sue.
4. **The Possible Guest Speakers List** will be typed up as resource names for Mother Nature Festival, Summer Family Nights, and other LNC occasions. Artist and photographer names for future art exhibits could be collected as well.
5. **Sustainable Lawrence EXPO** will be held on Saturday, March 17, from 10 am - 4 pm, at LHS cafeteria commons. Lawrence Nature Center plans to have an information table at the EXPO - - - Sue needs help. Please :)
6. **Committees** - discussed for a short time; need to be thoroughly discussed at a future FLNC meeting at 7 pm. If you have a particular committee interest, please attend.
7. **LNC Calendar for 2012** - All programs, dates and flyers need to be approved by the FLNC Board. Steve Groeger will carry out ALL publicity as discussed at a meeting with him on 2/27/12. New procedures/ policies need to be written for FLNC. The FLNC Bylaws will be reviewed.
8. **Summer Family Nights every Tuesday at 7 pm in July + August.** Education Committee needs help assigning dates with speakers and making calls/ emails. What topics do you want to hear?
9. **Scout project ideas are needed for a potential Silver GS, Laura Bentivegna,** daughter of Carolle and Scott. She likes nature and the project must be sustainable. Laura loves writing songs, making videos for YouTube, and possibly writing some educational nature lesson plans. The Educational group at the meeting thought it would



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be a great Girl Scout Silver Project if Laura made a video ~ virtual tour of Lawrence Nature Center inside the building: library, Great Room, displays, brochure holders, donations? ; outside front + back: special trees, gardens, meadow, Swift Tower, bee hives, birdhouses, feeders; Drexel Woods, trail signs + brochure boxes, kiosks, Blue and White trails, Shabakunk Creek, wood duck box, and any wildlife seen. IN ADDITION, add separate video of Mother Nature Day, SL EXPO, and Green Mapping, if possible. = These are three IMPORTANT Joint events for LNC and Sustainable Lawrence.

10. **February 20, 2012** - Sue Herrmann. Rick Dutko, Linda Townsend and one TCNJ science education student – Gilina Jokic - welcomed Lawrence Day School for a program "**I LOVE NATURE and BOOKS.**" Thirty-four LDS students and teachers attended the inside and outside program. Most children were ages 3+4; eight children were the older siblings off for the Presidents' Holiday. Fun time was had by all :)

Adjournment: The Education Committee meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan K Herrmann, Vice President and Education Chairperson

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Google LNC PROFILE + PHOTOS: <https://profiles.google.com/103712913171769296915?hl=en&tab=h#103712913171769296915/about>

NEXT 2012 meetings: March 27; April 24; May 22; June 26.

NO EDUC meetings in July or Aug 2012 due to Summer Family Nights every Tuesday at 7 pm.

Education Committee meetings will resume: Sept 25; October 23; November 27;
December 2012 meeting will be on December 18 (NOT DEC 25).

Thank you for your participation!