

**Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes
Board Meeting
April 15, 2009
10:00 AM
SLBE Library**

Board Members Present: Christine Armbrecht, Eleanor Comings, Kerry Kelly, Kick Kishline, Molly McCombs, Pat Oriel, Jerry Powley, Jack Schultz, Lois Veenstra

NPS Representative Present: Tom Ulrich

Visitors Present: Leonard Marszalek, Alice Van Zoeren, Tom Van Zoeren, Dennis Yockers

Changes to Agenda: None

Minutes of October 15, 2008, Meeting: Approved

Treasurer's Report: Molly McCombs

- Molly provided a detailed financial statement (**attached**) showing total assets of \$32,974.88 with restricted funds of \$18,797.87, and encumbered funds of \$2,650.00, which leaves an operating fund balance of \$11,527.01. Approved.
- The bio-blanket will be purchased soon.
- Cherry Republic has made a donation of \$5,000.00 toward the Lane Road Project. A grant was applied for to be used for the Lane Road Project.
- A financial statement for the 2009 Port Oneida Fair was presented. We will receive a grant of \$4,500.00 this year. The bus will cost \$2,000.00 this year. The grant funds will end this year.
- A year's end summary of activity was presented along with the budget for 2009 (**attached**). Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Report from Lakeshore Representative: Tom Ulrich

- The GMP is done.
- A draft of the wilderness legislative package has been sent to Washington.
- There will be a public review of possible changes to the access at the Pierce Stocking Drive's Lake Michigan scenic overlook tentatively scheduled on June 16 and 17, followed by 30 days of public comment.
- The first piping plover was back yesterday (April 14).
- There is a person on staff to do botulism research. (Information will be presented by Ken Hyde at a SLBE meeting at noon today.)
- Removal of baby's breath will continue this summer.
- Rehabilitation of various sites will be worked on.
- Work is being done on the old bachelor quarters to add more office space.
- The Long Range Interpretive Plan is being worked on. On Friday of this week there will be an education planning workshop. There will also be a workshop in August.

- The Lakeshore is working with the Homestead on the wastewater treatment easements on Lakeshore land.

Report on phragmites: Steve Yancho

- This is a non-native invasive species of wetland grass which is becoming established in the Lakeshore. It is a tall reedy grass that can cut the skin as you walk through it. It can grow runners of 50 feet per year. It must be treated in the fall with herbicides.
- More information about phragmites can be found at <http://www.peaine.org/environment/phragmites/video/> (a Beaver Island web-site).

Membership Report: Molly McCombs

- There are 74 family memberships, 51 single memberships, and 11 corporate sponsors. Twenty-two of these have unpaid dues for 2009 with nearly half of those unpaid since 2007.
- Corporate membership in Glen Arbor increased after Roland Drayson visited with the Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce and distributed information packets.

Adopt A Trail Report: Molly McCombs

- Reporting of trail conditions this winter was slow but given the weather conditions this year it is not surprising. We have had 8 hours of trail work reported so far but that is expected to pick up once all the snow is gone.
- There are 33 individuals and 2 groups (the Grackels social group and the Grand Traverse Audubon Club) in the AAT program.
- The bike trail will also be included as portions of it are completed.

Adopt A Garden: Molly McCombs

- The AAG site is at the Lawr Farm in Port Oneida
- A new leader for AAG will be needed as Molly is not available for the position this summer.
- Anyone who is interested should contact Kim Mann.
- One person was mentioned as a possible new leader.
- There are two more possible gardens: at the Visitor Center and at the Kelderhouse House after other work is completed in those areas.

Adopt A Beach: Kerry Kelly

- There are 21 groups (40 people) assigned to 10 of our Lake Michigan beaches.
- AAB program provides an annual pass, shirt, hat, clipboard, and Litter Gitter for each volunteer.
- We are looking for more volunteer for this summer.
- A training session with the Alliance for the Great Lakes is scheduled for May 12 at 3:00 PM in the Visitor Center auditorium
- A request for \$500 was made to order hats and shirts for the new volunteers. Passed - \$200 from the Ricord fund and \$300 from the general fund.

Booklets and Stickers: Kerry Kelly

- The Birding Booklet is completed. Thanks go to Alice Van Zoeren. The cost for this booklet is \$1,000 for 1,000 copies.
- The requested donation price for booklets is \$2.00 as of April 9, 2009.

- We will order 1,000 of the Birding Booklet and 400 of each of 7 other titles at an estimated cost of \$1,500. Passed.
- Booklets will be available at the Visitor Center, Cannery in Glen Haven, and Platte River Campground Office.

Non-Motorized Trail Plan: Kerry Kelly

- The public comment period has been completed as of early April.
- Surveying of the segment 5 of the new trail starting at the Dune Climb, through Glen Haven and D. H. Day Campground, to Glen Arbor will begin April 22 with design and engineering to be completed later in 2009 and 2010.
- A federal grant was applied for to help pay for the trail. This will also involve the raising of matching funds.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tractor and Mower for Port Oneida: Kerry Kelly

- Fields on the Dechow Farm have been cleared of woody vegetation scattered in the midst of the field in the fall of 2008. This year we will focus on removing woody vegetation around the edges of the fields at the forest line. Trees will be pulled and stacked for burning
- A project planning review is scheduled for April 30 with Maintenance and Natural Resources to determine exactly which trees should be removed and where to stack the burn piles.
- Tractor Training will be scheduled in early May for volunteers and a refresher course for those who were trained in 2008.
- Kerry will coordinate the volunteers, collect VIP forms and hours to report to Susan.

D. H. Day Exhibit at the General Store: Lois Veenstra

- Susan Sanders and Lois have been continuing to work on the exhibit. The five backlit panels which highlight the main story themes need to be printed for the display.
- A request was made to pay the cost of these panels at \$700. Passed.

Shirts and Caps for the Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes: Christine Armbrecht

- Examples of the shirts and caps were shown. These would make us more recognizable at public functions.
- If we order 12 shirts the cost will be \$22.75 each and 12 caps will be \$15.50 each.
- E-mail Christine your order and send your check to Molly.

New Stairs for Beach Access at Lane Road in Port Oneida: Kerry Kelly

- Cherry Republic has donated \$5,000 toward materials and will add volunteer labor from their company to work with SLBE maintenance crew to build the stairs in May.
- Kerry is working with Don Crouch and Lee Jameson to coordinate the work plan and will work with Cherry Republic to define the dates and coordinate volunteers.

WGVU TV Special on Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore:

- A PBS television documentary about Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is being considered by WGVU Public Broadcasting. This will coordinate with the Ken Burns NPS special that will air in the fall.

- Fundraising is needed to raise \$250,000 but has not successful. Plan B would take about \$25,000 to finance a 30-minutes special.

NEW BUSIENSS:

- Tom Van Zoeren is continuing with the transcription of interviews with residents of Port Oneida.
- Request of transcription fees of \$1,000. Approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Tom Ulrich: The South Manitou Island Lighthouse will be re-lit on Saturday, May 30, at dusk.

ADJOURMENT: 11:58 AM