

Whitefish Dunes Friends' Meeting

March 14, 2013

Present were: Lynn, Diane, Bill, Amy, Dennis, Don, Rich, Mary, Dale, Carl, Adele.

Representative Garey Bies was a guest.

Mr. Bies was present at the request of Carl who wanted to discuss Act 168 which will permit hunting and trapping within the park during specified periods of time. There was a prolonged discussion during which the board members made it clear that there was little or no opposition to deer hunting during the 9-day gun season. There were many questions about the extension for many months for hunting and trapping. In defense of the act Mr. Bies pointed out that the act was approved with very little opposition (it was passed 84-12) by the legislature. Rich specifically wanted to know when the park hunting was added to the bill, particularly if was added after the public hearings. Bies agreed to get this information to the members of the board.

Following the guest's departure, the minutes were approved with one change.

Amy's treasurers report showed very little activity this past month. A profit of \$136.81 of sales less expenses resulted. She also explained that an ipad with printer that could properly record point-of-sale data with scanner, stand, and cash drawer would cost \$1,046.11 plus some software. Bill and Amy will explore alternatives. There is presently about \$1,300 in the Ski Trail Grooming Equipment Fund. When this fund is somewhat larger, we can make a grant application to the Raibrook Fund.

A discussion of ownership of the snowmobile and the necessary liability resulted in no decision. Lynn will explore the cost of acquiring the necessary liability insurance. In any event the machine has been parked until the next ski season.

Diane read a letter from a park visitor complimenting on the excellent selection of books for purchase. Several members expressed confidence in the books she has ordered in the past and appreciated her efforts in this important fund raising activity. A motion was made and passed (with 2 opposed) to authorize her to make orders up to \$1,500 for delivery in time for the summer selling season. She will try to locate titles dealing with shipwrecks in addition to the regular items such as children's books, nature guides, and titles dealing with cultural and natural history.

Lynn reminded members to study the bi-laws sent to them recently as this will be on the agenda for April.

Don reported that there is a considerable infestation of beach bark disease within the park. He is hoping to have a logging operation to remove these damaged trees. There is concern about safety as the trees can break and fall. Trails will be closed during the logging operation. Don also reported that park staff would not attend meetings unless there was a topic for discussion that needed specific input from them.

The next meeting will be Thursday April 18 at 4:30.

After the adjournment, Don found Carolyn's report lying on a nearby table. Because most of the members never saw her list, it is summarized here as part of the minutes.

She is withdrawing the request for program funds for the OnCell program due to increased workload.

She met with graphic artist to review draft layouts for the shipwreck exhibit.

She is working with the State Natural Areas invasive crew to accomplish grant objectives.

There will be several public programs during the spring bread week. Also working with Sevastopol School to arrange some workdays. Also working with Peninsula Park naturalist to provide educational activities and information about state parks for the Sustainability Fair (April 27)