

I. Meeting called to order by President, Mike Starshak

Present: Board Members-S. Naparalla, K. DeCramer, D. Niedermair, Absent C. DeCramer.
WHA Members-M. Niedermair, M. Perr, D. Solberg and D. Shurpit.

II. Approval of Agenda

President Starshak noted the following corrections on the agenda: VI. Schedule of 2018 Activities and VIII. Election of Officers: President, Secretary and Member-At-Large. Motion to Approve Agenda with corrections made by K. DeCramer, Second D. Niedermair. Passed unanimously.

III. Approval of 1/21/17 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve K. DeCramer, second M. Perr. Passed unanimously.

IV. Treasure's Report

Request 1 bill to be paid: \$835 to Old Hickory Golf Club for Hickory Feast

Motion to pay D. Niedermair, Second S. Naparalla. Passed unanimously.

Account balance is \$1945.53

WHA has approximately \$5,000 remaining from grant to pay for printing, and to pay time & mileage for any member to provide presentations or nut cracking workshops now through March. Keep other members informed when you set up presentation and workshops and let Kevin know time and mileage ASAP after to apply to grant\$.

V. 2017 Year-in-Review

A. Nut Cracking Workshops

Naparalla said she had only one request for a workshop due to the 2016 low harvest however we have sold 20 Roloff nut crackers with the high 2017 harvest. We just received 15 more crackers to sell during 2018, 2 of which have been sold.

B. Field Tour/Workshop

D. Niedermair felt it was very successful. Had about 40 people attend even though only about 20 registered. Great news coverage by 2 newspapers. Demonstrations included floating nuts, cracking, tools to pick up nuts and tour of trees.

Suggestions for next year: contact company of the nut wizard to see if we could sell like we do the nut crackers, have vendors, create cookbook to sell.

C. Hickory Feast

Feast held at Old Hickory Golf Club in Beaver Dam at noon on a Sunday. It was a beautiful day with 30 people in attendance. This year there were some changes: it was held on a Sunday at noon instead of Saturday evening; we had a guest speaker, Linda Schallma from Ray's Nuts an online nut distributor from the Beaver Dam area and we also ran a raffle of 12 baskets of donated goods. We had guests from IL that heard about it and drove up for the day to attend. Income \$1500, expense \$835 Profit \$665.

D. Specialty Crop Block Grant

WHA received a draft this fall of the grant report being conducted by UW-Whitewater and submitted word changes and corrections. Final grant report due in March 2018

E. Hickory Nut Harvest Report

President Starshak reported that it was an average to above average harvest year. Information we received during our Outdoor Workshop seemed to reveal an increase in grubs moving up from the south, thus the topic of our January Newsletter. This also shows the importance of collecting data on your trees and sharing with the group. Reminder that trees bud in the fall giving you a clue as to the next year's harvest. Good to track the weather, dates of bud popping and watching for grubs and other disease.

VI. Schedule of 2018 Activities

A. Specialty Block Grant

President Starshak distributed a draft report prepared by the grant team in regards to creating a manufacturing business to buy/deshell/sell hickory nuts and the financial impact for WI.

Copies of this report will be available on the WHA website or by contacting a Board Member.

-We do know there is a market for hickory nuts because China has a large market for it and is always searching for more.

-If anyone has information related to hickory nuts that they feel would be valuable in regards to the study of the feasibility of hickory as an industry you are encourage to send it to WHA or a Board Member to be passed on to the research group.

-Final Report is due March 2018

B. WHA Media Manager

WHA is searching for a media manger to assist with our website, facebook, news articles and advertising. Pay will be \$50/month. This position could be filled by a member, interested non-member or college student looking for experience or to gain class credit. S. Naparalla has been in contact with someone who is interested but has not made a final decision yet. If her answer is no we will continue the search.

C. Nut-Cracking Workshops

Anyone is welcome to do a workshop or assist another member. When you arrange one please let WHA know so we it can be advertised. Also remember that if the workshop is held Jan-March we can use grant money to pay for mileage and time. Naparalla will be contacting a number of libraries in effort to set up workshops to be able to advertise the list all at the same time.

D. Field Tour/Workshops

1. Naparalla stated that she had spoken with member, Doug Lloyd about holding one around his area in Oakfield so he was going to do some checking. Also there may be a possibility of holding one at Duck Creek Campground in Pardeeville. DeKramer stated that Taylor Park on Hickory St. in Fond du Lac has a number of trees.

-Starshak discussed having signs for designated stands of hickory for groups to take bus tours.

-We have a landowner that has offered trees on a "Self-Dig Seedlings" basis so this could

possibly be turned in to a workshop day.

- Tour the Appleton Apple Creek YMCA where they planted a large number of hickory trees
- Possibly a Grafting Workshop

2. Arbor Day-DNR give trees to 4th graders. We could once again contact each school in the area to see if they would choose the free tree to be hickory, offer to pick up/drop off and possibly offer a presentation to students.

E. Hickory Feast

Discussion of having 2 Feast (breakfast, lunch or dinner) in 2 new locations. One in spring to piggyback with Arbor Day and the other to continue in October.

Naparalla stated a concern that we need to offer some events early in the year for members to have an early return on their membership cost. We also need to keep members more informed as to plans and how they can be involved and help.

VII. Election of Officers

DeCramer passed out the schedule of WHA Board Member Terms through 2021

-Secretary: C. DeCramer not seeking another term of secretary office.

No one present interested in running. Motion by Naparalla to nominate D. Solberg, Second by DeCramer. Passed unanimously based on him accepting since he had to leave the meeting early.

-President: M. Niedermair made motion that Mike Starshak continue, second by DeCramer.

Passed unanimously.

-Member-at-Large: Perr made a motion that D. Niedermair continue, second by Naparalla.

Passed unanimously.

VIII. Q & A Session – none

IX. Adjournment

Next meeting date set for Sunday, January 28 at 9:00 a.m., breakfast at Mike Starshak's to set up "call to action items".

Starshak read quote fitting for WHA

"Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will never die, but long after we are gone be a living thing, asserting itself with ever-growing insistency." Daniel Burnham

Meeting adjourned by President Starshak

Followed by Potluck