



Northwest Illinois  
Forestry Association  
Woodland Owners  
Sharing Ideas on  
Forest Productivity

## **Northwest Illinois Forestry Association**

Minutes of January 14, 2020

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm in the meeting room at the Stockton Public Library. Since we have a speaker who travelled a ways, President Arnold said we will start the meeting with our speaker then move on to the regular business.

Bill Mitchell of ReAdapted was introduced. Mr. Mitchell used a power point projector to show the items he designs and builds for clients. He specializes in using environmental friendly materials in his specialized products. His featured material is Black Locust and he showed how he uses it to make long lasting products. He currently is getting his Black Locust from an Eastern US supplier, but he encouraged people to start a more local business where he could get the wood products he needs.

A lively discussion period followed his presentation where he answered questions and challenged those present to utilize their wood production.

Following a short break, President Arnold reconvened the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Officers and Directors present for the business meeting were: Tom Arnold, Dick Pouzar, Kevin Cahill, Ken Beach, Greg Hopton, Jay Solomon, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold asked for any additions or corrections for the December 10th minutes. Jay Solomon noted that there were 3 level one chain saw safety sessions instead of the 2 sessions in the minutes. Secretary Misek said the change has been made to the minutes. President Arnold then called for a motion to approve the minutes. Ken Beach moved to approve the minutes. Jay Solomon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Beach handed out a detailed Treasurer's Report that showed both 2018 and 2019 income and expenses. He noted that there is one new item in the 2019 column with that being the cost for renewing memberships electronically. Treasurer Beach also reported that one of the NIFA CD's just matured and asked what we should do with it. President Arnold responded that we will discuss this item in New Business. Dick Pouzar moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Dick Pouzar asked about the NIFA donation of books to the Library where we are meeting. President Arnold said he had not spoken with the Librarian about what books NIFA could donate. He will meet with the Librarian before the next meeting.

President Arnold then directed attention to continuing work on the 2020 meeting and tour agenda.

Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will feature Scott Schimer talking about forest entomology and discuss the insect pests that are invading our forests.

March 14<sup>th</sup> will be the Tri State Forestry Conference at Highland College in Freeport.

March 24<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual Dinner meeting. Greg Hopton reported that he has a speaking commitment from Matt Parbs with the Sawmill Museum in Clinton Iowa. Mr. Parbs will cover the history of the area with emphasis on forestry.

April 18<sup>th</sup> will be a tour of the Greg Hopton Forest featuring recent tree planting and looking at pole size Walnut trees to determine if corrective pruning or coppicing is the best option.

In May we will tour the New Mallory forests with John Schroeder, Forester, leading the tour and showing the work he has been doing. The date will be chosen later.

Also in May or possibly August will be a tour of the Stone Hollow Garden Shoonery featuring growing mushrooms in the woods on raised beds. President Arnold will contact the owners to determine the best time for the tour.

On June 27<sup>th</sup> we will tour the John Lundquist Christmas Tree Farm and observe shearing conifer trees to shape them for future Christmas trees.

July 18<sup>th</sup> will be a tour of the Sawmill Museum in Clinton. The regular charge for the tour is \$6.00 per person, but the Museum will allow only a \$3.00 charge for our tour group.

July 27-30 will be 4 Chain Safety sessions with 2 level one sessions and 2 level two sessions. There is a possibility that a 5<sup>th</sup> session may be added. Session locations will be determined later. Jay Hayek will be the instructor for all of the sessions.

August is open and may be used to reschedule one of the earlier tours due to weather or other conflicts.

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, Ken Beach will lead a tree identification tour at Schurmeier Forest. This session may be co-sponsored with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, Ken Polhamus will conduct a tour featuring wildlife habitat on his land.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Treasurer Beach showed us a letter he had received from our insurance company. He said that the company usually charges NIFA a higher fee and then issues a refund later in the year.

Treasurer Beach then told the group that the CD for \$2,041 is maturing today and we have 10 days to change the maturity dates and rates. He continued that the company has a 13 month special CD that pays 1.65% interest or a special 61 month CD that pays 2.10% interest. Following discussion it was proposed to do the 61 month CD and add money from our checking account to bring the CD to \$5,000. Dick Pouzar moved to approve the proposal. Kevin Cahill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer Beach then passed out the 2020 budget and asked for comments. Dick Pouzar (former Treasurer) said that NIFA has previously given the 4H group that prepares and serves the meal for our Annual Dinner meeting an extra \$100 to keep them interested in doing the meal for NIFA. He continued that if we want to do this again, we should add more money to the Dinner Meeting budget item and suggested going from \$500 to \$800. Jay Solomon moved that we should amend the budget to make the Dinner expense \$800. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Then President Arnold asked for any additional changes to the budget. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the budget. Kevin Cahill moved to approve the budget. Jay Solomon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion followed on whether we should raise the Annual Dinner Meeting ticket from \$12 to \$15.

Dick Pouzar commented that NIFA does not plan to make money on the dinner and raising the price may hurt attendance. He continued that we do need to have a cutoff period for ticket sales so the 4H'ers can plan for the meal. After that cutoff period, we have raised the ticket price to \$15 to encourage people to acquire their tickets earlier. The group was in agreement with Mr. Pouzar's suggestions.

President Arnold then asked Ralph Eads to check with the Church of God in Mt. Carroll to see if they would allow NIFA to have the Annual Dinner Meeting there. He also asked Ralph to contact the 4H group to see if they will prepare and serve the meal. Ralph agreed to make the contacts.

President Arnold called for any other new business. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn. John Lundquist moved to adjourn the meeting. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

