



## **Northwest Illinois Forestry Association**

Minutes of January 10, 2023

President Beach introduced Tom Walsh, Past President of the Illinois Forestry Association.

Mr. Walsh informed the group about the 2022 events that the Illinois Forestry (IFA) held this past year. He specially highlighted the IFA Annual Conference that was held at Chestnut Mountain Lodge last September.

Mr. Walsh also talked about Illinois Forestry Development Council and the grant program they operate. Most grants are for outreach and education of the Forestry resource.

He continued with answering questions from the group.

President Ken Beach called the business meeting to order at 7:45 pm. Officers present were; Ken Beach, Kevin Cahill, Dick Pouzar and Jerry Misek. Directors present were; Tom Arnold, Jay Solomon, Wes Hepker, and Tom Sleeter (by Zoom).

President Beach asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were no responses from the group, but he added that the NIFA membership brochures are getting in short supply and we need to address ordering more.

President Beach called for any additions or corrections to the December 13th minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Tom Arnold moved to approve the minutes. Kevin Cahill seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Cahill gave a detailed report on the financial activities for the past year. His report is attached to the minutes.

Tom Arnold moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Membership Report**

Tom Sleeter was present on Zoom. He reported there are some discrepancies on the membership lists. His concerns centered around the Complimentary memberships and the "bundled" members.

Tom Arnold reported that the "bundled" memberships came from the chain saw safety classes. An organization or business that is a NIFA member sent several people to the classes and paid for the classes with one check. Tom worked with Dick Pouzar to see how these groups could be handled. Dick researched and found that those people could be "bundled" and the money could be accepted that way.

This led to a discussion if the people in those bundles are actually NIFA members who could receive the lower rates for the classes. It was found that some of those people were not actual members of NIFA but were listed as such and this is causing confusion.

It was decided to not accept "bundles" in future chain saw safety classes.

### **Old Business**

President Beach started the discussion on the 2023 meeting and tour agenda.

January 10th---Guest Speaker of Tom Walsh, past president of the Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) to discuss the role of IFA and its goals and how NIFA can utilize or partner with IFA. He could also talk about the role of the Illinois Forestry Development Council.

February 7th--- Panel discussion of solar energy options. a forum is planned with 3 or 4 solar panel providers and 3 or 4 users with recent installations.

Ken Beach and Wes Hepker will contact the panelists with the goal of 5 minute presentations from the providers and 3 minute presentations from the users.

March 28th--- Annual Dinner Meeting with Kevin Oetken as featured speaker discussing archeology and showing his findings near our area. (Jerry Misek) President Beach will make contacts about a meeting place and caterers for the meal.

April---Woodland Burns with Jake Pulfer as the leader. This event will be held with short notice because very specific weather conditions need to be met for a proper burn to occur. (Ken Beach)

May--- The tree planting event. Tom Arnold will contact a speaker and together they will determine a time and place for the tour.

June 10th--- Sawmill Museum tour encouraging attendance of the youth. (Ken Beach)

July 21st---Forest Products Lab tour emphasizing attendance of youth. (Jerry Misek)

August 19th--- Wooded Wonderland tour with John Eisbach as the leader. (Tom Arnold)

September 9th-- Tree Identification tour with Ken Beach and Pam Johnson as leaders. (Ken Beach)

September---Second event with a Stihl representative to discuss chain saws and other outdoor equipment with emphasis on safety. Possibly add a health person to talk about injuries and how to treat.

October --- Open with possible meeting or tour of the Abbey with John Schroeder as leader. (Ken Beach and John Schroeder)

November--- Business meeting

December--- Business meeting and election of Officers and Directors

Special Events---Chain saw safety classes. Tom Arnold will arrange the sessions and locations with Jay Hayek as the instructor. Classes will be scheduled between June and August.

## **New Business**

President Beach informed the group that he had received a check from Mary Snaveley in honor of Walter Peaslee. The check was for \$500.00. Tom Arnold suggested that we use the funds to purchase \$500.00 worth of Forestry related books for the Stockton Library and make note of the donation at the Annual Dinner Meeting.

President Beach reported that there is only about 35 NIFA membership brochures left and asked if we should order more. Discussion followed with everyone agreeing to order more but the quantity was in question. It was suggested to look where the price break is and then make the order. Dick Pouzar is in charge of the ordering.

Jerry Misek brought up an idea to get more youth involved in Forestry. The idea was to conduct a contest with the winners being awarded significant prizes. The topics that he suggested were: identifying tree species by their leaves; identifying individual trees; identifying tree species by their seeds; identifying wood species; and completing a paper on Forestry questions. Jerry also

noted that this could be another good expenditure of the funds that were donated in Walter Peaslee's honor.

Much discussion followed. All agreed the need to involve more youth in Forestry. How, when and where to have some kind of contest was not decided. It was suggested that the President appoint a committee to pursue this idea.

President Beach asked if there was any more business to be discussed. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Kevin Cahill moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom Arnold seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

