



Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 27, 2019

The regular scheduled February meeting was postponed two weeks due to inclement weather.

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Officers and Directors present for the business meeting were: Tom Arnold, Kevin Cahill, Dick Pouzar, Lee Freedlund, Ken Beach, Greg Hopton, Jim Breed, John Schroeder, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold called for any additions or corrections to the January 8th minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ken Beach moved to approve the minutes. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beach reported that he is leaving the NIFA funds at the Apple River Bank. Fund totals are \$5,040 in checking, \$2,032 in a 20 month CD and \$4,182 in a 60 month CD. He said that the dues payments are coming in well. The annual dues are \$15.00 for notices by email and \$20.00 for notices by regular mail.

Jim Breed moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Lee Freedlund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

The donation to the Stockton Library was brought up. Dick Pouzar has drafted a proposal to the Library which included Forestry books suggested by John Schroeder and other sources.

President Arnold asked for volunteers to assist him in giving the proposal to the Library Board. Kevin Cahill and John Schroeder volunteered. President Arnold will set up the meeting with the Library Board.

President Arnold then discussed the proposed 2019 meeting and tour agenda.

March 26th will be the Annual Dinner meeting, Forester Steve Felt will be the featured speaker. His topic will be tree selection based on soil types and site conditions.

April 20th will be a tour at the Tom Arnold Tree Farm featuring natural forest regeneration following different timber harvests.

May will feature a tour of the Larry Priske Tree Farm to see the effects and benefits of pre-commercial thinning that was performed several years ago as well as hear from a logger, forester, and land owner on their thoughts on timber harvesting.

June will have a tour covering the results of the fall aerial spraying to control Bush Honeysuckle at the Brad Petersburg farm. This tour is conditional pending the effectiveness of the spraying that will be evident in the spring.

July 13th will be a session on pruning and coppicing Oak and Walnut trees at the Phillip Brown farm.

August will possibly be an indoor session on the Gypsy Moth and other invasive insects with Jay Solomon looking into arranging the meeting with Nancy Johnson and perhaps others.

September 21st will be a tour of the Johnson Creek Hardwood's business.

The fourth week of September (23-26) will be targeted for conducting chain saw safety classes. Jay Hayek will be the instructor. Presently 4 sessions are being considered. There will be 2 beginners sessions and 2 advanced sessions. Both Tom Arnold and Jim Breed offered their Tree Farms as places to hold the sessions. The Galena Territory may also have a site for a session or two.

October is open and Jay Solomon will try to locate someone to lead a field exercise on eradicating woody invasive plants in the fall.

November and December will be business meetings.

Dick Pouzar asked about how things were proceeding with the contact with IRS to get NIFA listed as a non-profit corporation. President Arnold and Treasurer Beach are working on this but have not submitted the required forms to IRS yet.

New Business

President Arnold called for any new business.

Treasurer Beach reported that the liability insurance for NIFA through Country Financial is \$431.00. Since it was approved in the 2019 budget, he will make the payment.

Dick Pouzar discussed the present web host, Wild Apricot, and inquired if we should stay with them since they have raised their rates several times. Discussion followed with the outcome being that we will stay with Wild Apricot for now.

Jay Solomon reported on the meeting, Managing Forest Understory and Edges, that was held January 18th at the Elizabeth Community Building. Meeting sponsors were; Illinois Extension Service, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and NIFA.

Jay said there were 50 people in attendance with a good representation of people in forest related businesses, agencies, and landowners. He continued saying that the meeting was well received and many questions were asked of the presenters, Chris Evans, U of I Extension Forestry Specialist and Ryan Harr, Iowa DNR Special Projects Biologist.

Dick Pouzar commented saying that Chris Evans should develop a short video presentation that could be shown to local groups. That would help with providing information without Mr. Evans travelling from Dixon Springs.

Featured Speaker

President Arnold introduced John Schroeder, Forester working at New Melleray Abby.

John spoke on his experiences with the large forest fires in California. He said the forest fires get so big due to the dry climate, heavy winds, low humidity, dry grasses, and highly flammable shrubs.

John also talked about his role with the Abbey. He does forest inventory, pruning, brush and invasive plant control and tree planting. He noted that he would be looking to hire a helper or two this spring.

There being no further business, President Arnold asked for a motion to adjourn. John Schroeder moved to adjourn the meeting. Ken Beach seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary

