



Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association
Woodland Owners
Sharing Ideas on
Forest Productivity

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of February 11, 2020

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at the Stockton Public Library. Since we have a featured speaker, President Arnold said we will start the meeting with our speaker then move on to the regular business meeting

Ken Beach introduced Scott Schirmer as our speaker. Mr. Schirmer is with the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Environmental Programs. He will talk about insect pests in our forests.

Mr. Schirmer used a power point presentation to illustrate the troublesome insect pests that are in Illinois forests. He discussed the Gypsy Moth and the controls the Department of Agriculture uses to contain the spread. The preferred tree species for this pest are Oak trees. He continued with talking about the Emerald Ash Borer and noted that it is so aggressive and widespread that no further controls are being used by his Department. He did encourage use of the Ash trees as lumber or firewood to help minimize the economic loss to forest owners.

Next Mr. Schirmer talked about Jumping Worms and how they can invade forests and reduce understory plants in the forest. He noted that the spread of these worms comes from dumping fishing worm bait and the use of balled and burlapped trees which can harbor the worms. Bare root stock does not pose a problem.

The final pest that was discussed is the Spotted Lanternfly. This insect has several plant hosts, but favors the Tree of Heaven. It also invades grape and hop plantations. Controls are being targeted in the Tree of Heaven with chemicals that kill the pest when it feeds on the tree.

Following a short break, President Arnold reconvened the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Officers and Directors present for the business meeting were: Tom Arnold, Dick Pouzar, Ken Beach, Greg Hopton, Alvin Wire, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold asked for any additions or corrections for the January 14th minutes. Hearing none, President Arnold then called for a motion to approve the minutes. Ken

Beach moved to approve the minutes. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Beach noted that he had received 65 renewal checks so far. He then said there is \$2,449.29 in the checking account. The expiring CD was renewed and funds added to bring the total to \$4,254.25 for the new 60 month CD. The other 60 month CD has a balance of \$4,542.06. President Arnold asked if there were any questions about the report. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the report. Greg Hopton moved to approve the report. Alvin Wire seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold passed out an agreement form between NIFA and the Stockton Public Library. The agreement basically covered the purchase of Forestry related books that the NIFA would pay up to \$500.00 for. The NIFA will supply a list of possible books that the Librarian may choose from for the books to add to the Library. The books should cover all ages of readers. The agreement continued saying that NIFA will contribute \$100 per year in future years as long as the NIFA continues to meet in the Library. A discussion followed with possible books to add to the list. It was agreed to approve the agreement as proposed.

President Arnold then passed out copies of the 2020 NIFA tour and meeting agenda. He noted that we do not have a date to tour the Stone Hollow Garden Shoonery, but he will contact them to try to get a firm date for a tour.

For the upcoming NIFA Annual Dinner Meeting on March 24th, Ralph Eads confirmed the use of the Mt. Carroll Church of God as the meeting location and the Carroll County 4H Group will prepare the meal. It was suggested to make a few modifications to the meal menu.

Dick Pouzar questioned if any more has been done with the application for NIFA to obtain tax exempt status. President Arnold responded that he and Treasurer Beach have not signed the forms as of yet, but said they would meet soon to complete the application.

NEW BUSINESS

President Arnold reported that he had just received a meeting proposal from the Illinois Forestry Association and had talked to one of their representatives. Basically, the Illinois Forestry Association plans to hold 4 meetings throughout the State promoting Forest Management and would like to partner with NIFA for one of the meetings. This meeting and tour would be an all day session covering relevant forestry topics, but highlighting Oak and Hickory regeneration. President Arnold will continue to discuss this meeting with the Illinois Forestry Association people and determine what NIFA's role in the meeting would be. A discussion followed with several possible tour sites mentioned.

Greg Hopton then questioned the group if anyone had heard more about the Tri-State Forestry Conference to be held March 14th at Highland College in Freeport. No one responded with more information even though the meeting is about a month away.

It was noted that Illinois has a new State Forester. His name is Paul Deizman and he

started February 3, 2020.

President Arnold called for any other new business. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn. Alvin Wire moved to adjourn the meeting. Dick Pouzar seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary