



Eagle Conservation & Education Committee Meeting Notes 5/6/15, 6 pm | Hampton Inn, Matamoras, PA

Present:

Joel Murphy, Mitchell Opresnick, Brad Orey, Nicole Slevin- Chair

Note-taker – **Nicole**

Meeting called to order 6:05 pm by Nicole.

Eagle Updates

New sign at eagle blind on Rt. 97 and subsequent publicity.

Educational program at Sullivan West elementary school in Sullivan County, to occur today.

TAG Grant Update: Conservancy to participate in River Fest in Narrowsburg on July 26th in order to fulfill the next requirement of the Upper Delaware Council Technical Assistance Grant to provide an educational, public opportunity.

Nicole has reached out to the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance (DVAA) in order to reserve a table and a space, attempting to get free of charge but waiting to hear from DVAA.

Discussion ensued about event details:

Regarding the building of a nest, Mitch said he doubts there will be any room to do so. **Mitch** will reach out to “Kevin” and “Mike” who usually help at this event. **Patricia** expected to help get volunteers to cover event table with activities.

We need to know if there is a nest to view from the event location.

Strategic Planning & Objectives 2016

Joel introduces the suggestion to begin a summer “eagle watch” program due to increasing resident eagle numbers and visitor interest. Nicole explains this type of nest monitoring effort was an objective of the initial TAG grant submission but funding and time was limited and momentum slowed.

Mitch says eagle watching can be difficult in the summer and traffic makes it worse.

The idea of a bird walk is brought up. Brad suggests collaborating with other organizations like the National Audubon Society and the National Park Service (NPS).

Joel suggests securing grant funding to build nests for eagles that may keep them in the area or some similar habitat assistance.

Brad wonders if there are regulations against it and suggests Boy Scout property.



Discussion follows about the Erie County eagle camera and possibilities locally. The general consensus is that it's not realistic.

Nicole suggests building such a platform on the property chosen to be protected by the Walmart funding. She asks where the new nests/pairs are to consider. Answers include Pond Eddy (old nest), Lackawaxen, Honesdale, Basha Kill, and Lake Wallenpaupack.

Nicole suggests the Conservancy puts out a press release with a call for eagle nests to the public to help with a nest monitoring program.

The committee suggests determining a specific region to focus efforts on for monitoring and possible mapping, to update existing NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and NPS maps.

Brad suggests the Delaware Water Gap, north to Hancock. The committee agreed.

Other

Brad adds that the Conservancy Facebook page doesn't have the "back-and-forth" communication that the forum had. He says that he hadn't been able to attend the previous meeting but sent the topic as an agenda item. He's not necessarily suggesting a new forum but explains that he would be willing to monitor something that would meet this need.

Nicole explains that the issue of the forum was discussed at the previous meeting, in Brad's absence, and that it was decided to shut down the forum completely and that there are no staff members at this time to manage a new forum.

Joel suggests that it would be easier to increase involvement on the website and make it more useful.

Suggestions were made:

Mitch: to direct current users wishing to continue activity to follow Stephen's forum if they wish to continue participation in photography

Nicole: to create a "widget" on the website that shows activity of the social media pages that can keep people engaged.

Brad: to create a blog in the future.

Joel had to leave early, at 7:10 pm.

Mitch and Brad admit that they are not comfortable with phone meetings and they will not attend conference calls. The committee suggests just postponing altogether when we cannot meet in person for reasons of bad weather, etc.

Adjourned 7:20 pm

Next meetings on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6 pm:

Jul 1	ECEC Meeting	Hampton Inn, Matamoras, PA
Sep 2	ECEC Meeting	Hampton Inn, Matamoras, PA
Nov 4	ECEC Meeting	Hampton Inn, Matamoras, PA