

Nature Education Standing Committee Minutes January 17, 2019

Present: Nancy Brundage, Liaison Carol Vigorito, Joshua Boyle, Peggy Palma, Nick Visingardi

- **Old Business:** Carol led a discussion of our committee recommendations to the Park made on December 12. Per Carol, these recommendations must be fleshed out and presented in person to the Mill Creek Park Board of Directors.
 - Carol also explained that she will no longer be the liaison for this committee as the Park's employee responsibilities have been shuffled, with Carol no longer associated with nature education, but retaining her role in recreation.
 - Joshua Boyle motioned to approve the meeting minutes of December 4, 2018, seconded by Peggy Palma. All say aye.
 - Discussion continued regarding our goal of evaluating and monitoring participation in Park nature education programs. Carol advised that Mandy Smith has data compiled about programs. Joshua reminded committee members that we should personally attend events that address our goals. Carol advised that the Junior Naturalist program will be re-launched in 2019. In addition, the Park will be launching a new upper elementary program for 4th and 5th graders in Youngstown City Schools, the contact in that district being Pat Lowry. Once launched, the program will expand to more school districts. The plan for this program is that 4th graders will initiate the program in spring, and that the program will resume the subsequent fall, with the same students, who will then be in 5th grade. The Park's education goal for 2019 will be a focus on additional middle school programs, then to be followed by additional high school opportunities. As Mandy Smith is slated to be the new liaison for the Nature Education Committee, members should formulate questions for her regarding future programs.
 - Carol pointed out that the Park's 2019 budget includes initiation of the "Vermont System", a registration and reservation system that should provide some of the data we have been requesting regarding participants in park programs.
 - Joshua Boyle moved to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Brundage seconded.
 - Meeting adjourned.