



Prepare Each Student To Be Successful

Boston School Forest

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STEVENS POINT
AREA PUBLIC
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Boston School Forest Advisory Council November 6, 2024 ~ 4:00pm Oelke Lodge

1. Arrival & Welcome

- Present: Alex Brzezinski, Brenna Lockman, Gabby Richling, Chris Budzinski, Will Scheder, Terry Rothmann, Sally Ellingboe, Kelly Rowe, Gretchen Marshall, Jacque Gerritsen, Jeff Mlsna, Miranda Moody, Chris Nyman, Christie Nystrom, Karla Lockman
- Welcome to Gabby Richling who is representing SPASH on the BSF Advisory Council. Elyse Batien will be our SPASH representative. Elyse is a Biology teacher at SPASH.

2. Review/Discussion of Q4 Meeting Notes (review on your own)

3. Financial Report

- General Monetary Donations – Junior Women’s Club \$500 to help with the damage; Jarad Olson Band Benefit for BSF - \$1,521; Terry Rothmann \$40; Girl Scout Troop 6257 \$25; Cub Scout Pack 297 \$25; Boy Scout Troop 290 \$25; Cash \$25
- In-Kind Donations – Eagle Tree Care LLC woodchips, Feltz’s Dairy Store 10 pounds cheese curds; Jean Kosakowski – tom turkey mount; The Family Radio Network – commercials promoting the Fun Run/Walk;
- Grants – American Endowment Foundation Jim & Sharon Wysocki \$5,000
- Fund 21 expenditures – Boelter for new refrigerator \$2,766.24, Metro Market \$300 for Fun Run/Walk snacks and supplies
 - Donation account balance as of September 30, 2024 - \$94,576

4. Old Business (Use and Activity)

- Student groups
 - Summer School Great Outdoors – 40 students
 - Summer School Archery Class – 36 students
 - Summer Archery League – 29 students
 - Bridge to Success – 36 students, 8 adults
 - 3rd Grade – 463 students, 164 adults
 - 8th Grade – 465 students, 14 adults
 - 5th Roosevelt High Ropes w/ Randy Shirek – 70 students, 6 adults
 - 6th Roosevelt High Ropes w/ Randy Shirek – 72 students, 8 adults
 - SPASH Ed 101 students – 6 students
 - 5th & 10th grades - In progress
- Scout groups
 - Eagle Scout Project – Cole Siegel is working on his Eagle Scout project of relandscaping around Noble Lodge. His first work day removed rock and soil. We are waiting on the

shipment of donated rock to arrive and his second work day should be sometime in November.

- Boy Scout Troop 293 8/26/24 – 50 people
- Girl Scout Troop 6257 9/12/24 – put up a kestrel box - 18 people
- Eagle Scout Work Day Cole Siegel 9/14/24 –6 people
- Samoset Council BSA 9/17/24 – 6 people
- Cub Scout Pack 293 9/28/24 – 40 people
- Girl Scout Troop 6165 10/3/24 - 24 people
- Samoset Council Boy Scouts 10/17/24 – 19 people
- Cub Scout Pack 299 10/19-20 – 31 people
- Cub Scout Pack 297 10/21/24 – 23 people

- Other groups/visitors/volunteers
 - PCECC Early Childhood – 45 students, 8 adults
 - Family Camp – 4 families, 18 people
 - 4-H Cloverbud Explorer Camp Day 1 – 22 people
 - 4-H Cloverbud Explorer Camp Day 2 – 20 people
 - Family Fun Run/Walk Volunteers – 14 people
 - EBOC: WI Rapids Middle School – 34 kids, 3 adults
 - Plover Clovers 4-H Club – 31 people
 - EBOC: Classical Conversation Homeschool Group - 12 people
 - UWSP Observation Students – 62 people

- Past events & activities
 - Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom (EBOC) – The dedication was held on June 7, 2024. Just over 40 people attended. Jenny Riggerbach represented the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin and gave a short speech. Most of Emery’s family, past BSF staff, and people instrumental to the project were in attendance. Emery’s grandchildren held and cut the ribbon. Invitations were sent out in August to area parochial schools, homeschool groups, and principals to use EBOC. Registration is all online and is easy to do. We currently use EBOC with 5th grade students; the compass lesson takes place entirely from the shelter.
 - Family Camp - The Family Camp went great. We had 4 families. All surveys were returned and everyone responded very favorably. They loved the timing and the activities. There were more preschool kids than we anticipated so an idea is to have an older family camp and a younger family camp with age-appropriate activities. In the survey we asked about cost and responses ranged from \$20 per family to \$20 per person. We will possibly look at a Winter Family Camp in January.
 - Summer School - Thanks to Jean Diedrich, Dawn Kerske, Alex Brzezinski and youth tutor Jade Hapaala for coordinating and running summer school and trying new things like borrowing the WRA canoes to go canoeing at Schmeekle.
 - Archery League - This was the first year for Youth Archery League at BSF. There were 29 students over the course of the 3-month league. Jean Diedrich and Alex Brzezinski ran this activity and student/parent feedback was very positive. We plan to offer it again in Summer 2025.
 - Inspections – The PCHHS inspection went well. There are some changes to ATCP 78 Recreational Educational Camps such as keeping the registrar and paperwork for 3 years. Also Alex and Karla should have background checks every 2 years if onsite with youth from other user groups. Our Camp Rec Ed License was renewed. Also, ABEE

inspected our high ropes course and everything checked out. They do recommend that we replace the ropes early since the ropes get more wear, tear, and weather when used outdoors. Our ropes are cut by Randy Shirek and come from the Adventure Education budget in the past.

- Forest Family Fun Run/Walk - This event was held on August 23. It was once again a big hit. Over 150 people took part this year. We had great weather but were short on volunteers. Next year we will reach out to the junior high student council supervisors since junior high student council members meet in mid-August.
- Flashlight Friday - The second annual Flashlight Friday event for 3rd graders and their families was held on October 18, 2024. We had 117 participants enjoy an evening at BSF. Dr. Zamfir brought 3 UWSP telescopes and many were able to see the comet. Craft stations included a moon craft and glow-in-the-dark tie dye. Families also could grind and press their own cider and explore BSF with a guided night hike.
- Apple Cider Press – Thanks to the educational enrichment grant, BSF was able to get a new apple cider press to use with 3rd grade students. A huge thanks to Alex for assembling and cleaning it every day. We got apple donations from Amberle Schwartz, and several other families in the area.
- New septic – The new septic that services Noble Lodge and the new water treatment system was installed in late August. The water treatment system is scheduled to be hooked up before the end of the year.
- Salamanders – Daisy the 27-year-old salamander died this fall. She is buried under the maple tree with the other pets who have passed on. The same week we had a family call and offer us a blue-spotted salamander. Its name is Bluey. #forestmagic.
- Lake Pacawa Story Walk – Currently on display is The Leaf Man.
- Vandalism/Theft – Some time late August 27 or early August 28, BSF was broken into. Portage County Sheriff's Dept. assisted and featured the break-in on Crime Stoppers. Four doors were damaged. Six bows and about 80 arrows were taken. The arrows were shot all over the woods. Police later recovered the bows. An archway, bird feeders and benches were vandalized. Over 50 small diameter trees were also damaged with a large kitchen knife or machete. We are working with Detectives Mary Elle and Blake Porter. Blake set up trail cameras and monitors those for us.
- Benefit for BSF – Thanks to Jarad Olson for holding a benefit band concert to support BSF at Central Waters Brewery on November 2! Jarad is a teacher at PJs and SPASH and wanted to do something to help BSF improve safety and security after the recent theft. Official numbers haven't come back yet, but I heard the benefit made over \$1,000!!

5. New Business (Discussion Items)

- Upcoming activities/needs
 - Safety/Security – After the break-in we met with Chris Budzinski. There are plans to arm Oelke and Noble Lodges since these are the lodges that have the most value. Chris will speak with the Safety/Security Committee to get approval. Chris has also approved ordering more signage (no trespassing, security camera in use, etc.) and Karla will coordinate that with Mark Krutza. Thank you B&G!
 - Building Security Cameras – BSF has a need for cameras near our buildings to deter vandals. Jesse Suehs is putting together a plan, product, and pricing list for BSF utilizing our District camera vendor. Thank you, Jesse.

- Trail Cameras – BSF also has a need for monitoring activity away from the BSF buildings. Alex has research and identified the [Voopeak TC08 camera](#) that has many benefits including solar rechargeable batteries which reduces the need to change batteries. These cameras are \$100 each and there are 7 places on the forest property that they would be located (EBOC, Ropes course, Woodland shed, Ski Shack, green bathrooms, northwest property corner, trail). The camera can connect to phone by Bluetooth so that we can mount them up high and out of reach or notice.



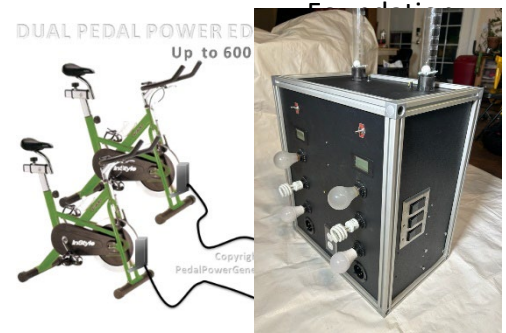
1. **Action Item** – Request to spend \$800 on 7 trail cameras, micro-SD cards, and batteries for the use of monitoring for trespassing and also wildlife.
2. Discussion – Jeff made the recommendation to purchase one trail camera and to test it out to be sure it works the way we need it to. Gretchen moved to purchase the first trail camera and if it works purchase the other 6 without coming back to the council for approval. Sally seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

- Trail Lights – A need for more trail lights has been identified since most of our evening/overnight groups throughout the school year must park in the parking lot but walk to Noble or Oelke Lodges in the dark. Alex will build and install the low-voltage trail lights and post. Please review the proposal for trail lights for additional information



1. **Action Item** - Request to spend \$2,200 on posts, low-voltage wiring, lights and other supplies for trail lights from the parking lot to Noble Lodge and on to the bathroom building.
2. Discussion – Terry moved to spend \$2,200 for trail lights. Will seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

- Pedal Power – For the past 6 years, BSF has checked out the Pedal Power bike from UWSP’s Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education. This gives all our 6th graders a chance to power light bulbs and small appliances using their own mechanical energy. Instead of relying on the UWSP equipment, we’d like to buy our own [Pedal Power Generator](#). After some review, the two-person stationary bike model looks to be high-quality and a great fit. It could also be used elsewhere in the district. It is expensive and Karla will write a Partner Grant from Community of Central Wisconsin. These grants are awarded and the 6th grade program starts right after spring. Therefore, we are asking to order pedal power hopefully we get the grant to reimburse up to the cost. Regardless, we do have enough money in donation account to purchase this equipment used with nearly 500 6th grade students and over at the Earth Day event.



1. **Action Item** – Request to spend \$7,900 + \$350 shipping = \$8,250 shipping on the dual pedal power system.
2. Discussion – Will trusts the research. Jeff asked about getting it to other schools. Chris B. suggested that delivery move it to different locations if needed. Will

moved to approve \$8,250 for the purchase and shipping of the pedal power.

Brenna seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

- Log Replacement – Oelke Lodge has several logs that are deteriorating. Alex reached out and got two quotes from qualified log home repair companies. A huge thanks to Chris Budzinski for making the PO and approving these repairs. The work will hopefully be done in December.
- Teacher Surveys – This year BSF is making and sending out teacher surveys to collect information regarding perceptions, relevance of lessons, connections to standards, behavior management, grounds/facilities, and general logistics. The 3rd grade teacher surveys have come back very positive. Karla shared that one teacher did indicate that the obstacle course has turned more into just moving kids through obstacles rather than a team building activity. Gretchen agreed with this evaluation and suggested we change the animal from a salmon to one found in Wisconsin to make it have a more local connection. Karla and team will look to revamp the obstacle course and maybe eliminate some obstacles so that there is time enough for groups to work together on collaboration, communication, and cooperation.
- Upcoming Events
 - Polar Pond Plunge – Saturday, December 7, 2024 10:00am – 12:00pm - Cory Hirsbrunner, Jeff Mlsna, Sam Dinga, and Jacque Gerritsen have already registered! have already registered!!! PJs has committed a crew along with Mike Feltz and several SPASH students. Donations from this year's pond plunge will go toward the safety/security updates as well as outdoor environmental education equipment and supplies.
 - Winter Open House – January 20, 2025 10:00am – 3:00pm
 - Earth Day Celebration – April 13, 2025 1:00pm – 4:00pm

6. Open Discussion, Questions, Comments

- Upcoming Meetings
 - Wednesday, January 29, 2025 - 4:00pm
 - Wednesday, April 9, 2025 - 4:00pm
 - Monday, June 9, 2025 - 4:00pm

7. Adjournment