



Prepare Each Student To Be Successful

# Boston School Forest

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STEVENS POINT  
AREA PUBLIC  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **Boston School Forest Advisory Council June 5, 2024 ~ 4:00pm Oelke Lodge**

### 1. Arrival & Welcome

- Present: Sally Ellingboe, Terry Rothmann, Will Scheder, Kelly Rowe, Jeff Mlsna, Christie Nystrom, Angela Hintz, Sarah Hopp, Alex Brzezinski, Brenna Lockman, Karla Lockman
- Welcome to Will Scheder who is representing the School Board on the BSF Advisory Council.

### 2. Review/Discussion of Q3 Meeting Notes (review on your own)

### 3. Financial Report

- General Monetary Donations – Red Eye Brewery \$282; Roosevelt School \$300; Plover-Whiting Elementary \$200 Kwik Trip gift card; Earth Day cash donations - \$106 which we got a Petco gift card.
- General In-Kind Donations – Frame Presbyterian Green Team 25 balsam trees; Steve and Terri Lybeck in memory of Tim Lybeck 4 apple trees; Woodlands SIA 12 bags compost; Rose Helm children's books & plush animals; Amberle Schwartz native plants for both pond and prairie; Jean Diedrich animal care supplies; Kathie Plaisance blue bird houses and earthworms; Eagle Tree Care LLC woodchips
- Grants
  - Educational Enrichment Grant - \$2,680 for a cider press, cider making supplies, apple trees and compost. Thank you!!
  - Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin BSF Fund - \$659.00
  - Aldo Leopold Audubon Grant - \$275 for balsam trees
- Fund 21 expenditures – Schmeekle EBOC cedar sign \$738; Fast Signs EBOC Donation Sign \$1656.50 (Tom Pease canceled, so we had the \$659 from CFCW fund go toward the signs); Jerry's Small Engine \$453.58 for Stihl trimmer; SPASPD Transportation \$139 for Earth Day shuttle
  - Donation account balance as of June 4, 2024 = \$97,442

### 4. Old Business (Use and Activity)

- Student groups
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 461 students, 63 adults
  - 4K – 427 students, 205 adults
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade – 465 students, 106 adults
  - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (including PoDS) – 461 students, 18 adults
  - Ben/PJs CD/ID – 14 students, 12 adults
  - SPASH CD/ID – 22 students, 16 adults
  - McDill 5<sup>th</sup> grade – 36 students, 5 adults

- Scout groups
  - Eagle Scout – Derek Brooks completed the split rail fence bordering the parking lot side of Sandy Land on April 6. He removed the rotting logs and spread woodchips. 12 people volunteered for 4 hours.
  - Eagle Scout – Joshua Weiss is submitting paperwork for his project which will be prepping and staining the two gazebos. Joshua’s work day is scheduled for June 8.
  - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (4/8) – 20 people
  - Boy Scouts Troop 297 (4/13) – 15 people
  - Samoset Council, BSA (4/18) – 21 people
  - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (4/22) – 18 people
  - Eagle Scout Court of Honor – Andrew Johnson (4/27) – 26 people
  - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (5/6) – 22 people
  - Samoset Council Boy Scouts (5/16) – 10 people
  - Boy Scout Troop/Pack 297 (5/18) – 26 people
  - Girl Scout Troop 6165 (6/3) – 23 people
  - Cub Scout Pack 293 (6/4) – 18 people
  
- Other groups/visitors/volunteers
  - UWSP NRES Observers – 20 people
  - Earth Day Volunteers – 40 people
  - Frame Presbyterian Planting Party – 6 people
  - Spring Into Action Volunteers – 69 people
  - Plover Clovers 4-H Club – 38 people
  - Portage County 4-H Ceramics Workshop – 14 people
  - Woodlands Church Spring Into Action – 69 people
  - EBOC Reservation Washington Elementary WI Rapids – 48 students, 16 adults
  - Police K-9 Training – 14 people
  - Portage County 4-H Ceramics (upcoming 6/10) -
  - PCECC Early Childhood Field Trip (upcoming 6/13) -
  - Family Camp (upcoming 6/14-15) -
  
- Past events & activities
  - Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom (EBOC) Updates –
    1. The EBOC cedar sign is beautiful and installed. The donation sign turned out well and is being installed tomorrow. Final preparations for the dedication event will take place outdoors on Thursday with the assistance of Boy Scout Cole who is working towards Life Scout. Dedication event is Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30pm-6:30pm.
    2. Woodlands SIA crew was instrumental in raking and chipping a new trail near EBOC, creating a walking path to the bathroom, staining all the posts, and building a small pollinator garden near the building.
    3. Our first big rental was on May 31. Second graders from a WI Rapids elementary school used it for the whole day. They had only good things to say about the space and the kids seemed to really enjoy it. The lead teacher Lori Bores said that they will definitely be back next year.
  - Spring Into Action – We had 69 volunteers from SIA on May 19. They were outstanding workers and the following projects were completed (in addition to those stated above), trimming and clearing trails, painting ramps and railings on gazebos, painting steps and bridge in Sandy Land, weeding flower beds, gardens, and prairie, planting native plants,

- Earth Day Celebration Sunday, April 21, 2024 – We had a record year with over 900 people attending!! There were 27 activity stations for families to visit and we had great weather. The bus shuttle for volunteers was a huge success!! We had a pick-up at the bus garage and also at St. Brons. About 30 volunteers from Ben Franklin, PJs, SPASH, UWSP, and the community rode the bus which saved greatly on parking. We will definitely use the shuttle next year as well.
- Wellness Pilot Program at PW – As part of the District Wellness Committee, Karla helped coordinate an after-school wellness program for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. UWSP Health Sciences majors Kellie and Kaitlyn led the program for 9 students at PW. We hope to use this as a model for other schools in the future.
- High Nitrate Remedy – We are working with Larry and Chris to get the new septic system for Noble Lodge installed this summer. The perc test was completed and we are just waiting for permitting to happen. Hopefully the work goes smoothly and the nitrate system is hooked up by the beginning of the school year. After it is hooked up, there will need to be at least two subsequent tests. Kris from Culligan is coordinating the paperwork with the DNR and PCHHS.
- Lake Pacawa Story Walk – We dedicated this month’s story “What Bluebirds do” to the memory of Dr. Kent Hall who donated bluebird boxes, time and expertise to us here at BSF and throughout the community.

## 5. New Business (Discussion Items)

- Upcoming activities/needs
  - Summer Family Camp – The Family Camp filled in the first hour. We have 4 families (20 people total) with kids ranging in age from preschool to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The camp will run 6:00pm Friday June 14 through 11:00am Saturday June 15 and is offered at no cost. Karla and Alex will run activities. Thank you Alex, for advocating for this program!
  - Summer Youth Archery League – Jean Diedrich is running a youth archery league this summer at BSF and it starts tonight! Chris Nyman was able to work it out so that it is offered through summer school and there is no cost to students. There are 3 sessions (June, July, August) with 4 Wednesdays in each session. Currently, we have 12-14 students signed up for each session and it is open to 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - Summer School – Both sessions of The Great Outdoors filled in 15 minutes with 20 students registered for each session. Thanks to our summer school staff of Teacher Jean Diedrich, EA Dawn Kerske, and Youth Tutor Jade Haapala for making a great team. Thanks also to Alex for all the assistance he provides throughout the summer school session.
  - Noble Lodge Improvement – We are looking to find an Eagle Scout to landscape around Noble Lodge to improve drainage around the building and freshen up the look. Alex did a cost analysis and it comes out to \$1200 for delivery of river rock, edging, and rainwater drainage materials from Shulfer’s Garden Center and Menards.
    1. Action Item: We request \$1200 from the donation account for the purchase of these materials (Shulfer’s, Menards) for a future Eagle Scout project.
    2. Discussion: Sally moved to approve this action item. Angela seconded. Unanimously approved.
  - Rain Poncho Replacement: The rain ponchos at BSF are at least 10 years old and not as effective anymore (ripped and less waterproof). Many should be replaced. Heavy duty rain ponchos on Amazon are \$20 each and have good ratings. We’d like to purchase 25 adult size and 25 youth size ponchos
    1. Action Item: We request \$1,000 from the donation account for the purchase of 50 rain ponchos from Amazon (or comparable seller).

2. Discussion: Alex suggested maybe rain jackets for the older kids. Karla asked for the autonomy to purchase best products for kids up to \$1,000. Christie moved to approve this action item. Jeff seconded. Unanimously approved.

- Upcoming Events

- Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom Dedication – The event is this Friday, June 7. The Social will begin at 5:30pm with cookies from Julie’s Norski Bakeri and lemonade/water. Karla will welcome guests at 6:00pm. Jenny Riggerbach and a few others will give short speeches followed by Karla recognizing the names of those who have donated to the EBOC area. Autumn Babcock, Emery’s granddaughter will cut the ribbon.
- Forest Family Fun Run/Walk – Mark your calendars for August 23, 2024.
- Family Flashlight Friday – TBD
- Polar Pond Plunge – Saturday, December 7, 2024
- Winter Open House – January, 2025 TBD
- Earth Day Celebration – April, 2025 TBD

6. Open Discussion, Questions, Comments

- Congratulations to Sarah Hopp who just graduated from SPASH! Thank you for serving on the BSF Advisory Council and for volunteers many, many hours at BSF over the past 9 years.

7. Adjournment