



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 8, 2023 ~ 4:00pm Oelke Lodge**

### 1. Arrival & Welcome

- Present: Sarah Hopp, Brenna Lockman, Gretchen Marshall, Jessica Smith, Christie Nystrom, Terry Rothmann, Sally Ellingboe, Barb Portzen, Kelly Rowe, Jeff Mlsna

### 2. Review/Discussion of 2022-2023 yearly report (please review on your own)

### 3. Financial Report

- Forest Family Fun Run/Walk Donations – Club Forest \$100; Worzella & Sons \$50; Central Door Solutions \$150; Town of Plover \$2,000, Kwik Trip \$300; T&A Boneyard Screen printing \$176; Feltz's Dairy Story 10# cheese curds; The Family Radio Network – donation of 30, 30-second commercials (\$175) promoting Earth Day event; PENDING: Fire Fitness \$150;
- General Monetary Donations – UWSP Low Brass \$250; Town of Plover \$5,000 for vault privy
- General In-Kind Donations – Oak View Veterinary Clinic 2 chinchilla check-ups; Jay-Mar Inc. \$640 line of credit through Dec. 2024; Amberle Schwarz 3 bushels of apples
- Grants –
  - Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin - \$6,000 toward the vault privy
  - Cellcom Green Gift - \$550 toward educational supplies for EBOC
  - NASP Grant - \$400 toward new/replacement archery equipment
  - Safari Club International NE WI Chapter Grant - \$1,000 toward new archery equipment
- Fund 21 expenditures – Amazon \$136 for hoses; Menards \$300 gorilla cart; J&J Transplant \$250 for aquatic plants; Feltz's Dairy Store \$45 for cheese curds; Mike Bembenek \$275 for commercial building permit; Bill Kolodziej \$900 for soil testing and sanitary permit

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

- Student groups
  - Summer School – 50 students
  - Archery Camp – 30 students
  - Other Summer School Visitors – 80 students, 8 adults
  - Transition to Junior High – 30 students, 6 adults
  - Ben Franklin Student Council – 28 people
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade – 473 students, 102 adults
  - 8<sup>th</sup> grade – 288 students, 13 adults
  - Roosevelt 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> class – 128, 4 adults
  - Bannach 5<sup>th</sup> – 50 students, 5 adults
  - FFA Retreat – 16 people
  - 5<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade – In Progress
- Scout groups

- Scout Troops 299 & 9299 – 10 people
- Cub Scout Pack 293 – 10 people
- Girl Scout Troop 6165 (9/26/23) - 10 people
- Girl Scout Troop 6165 (10/3/23) – 15 people
- Cub Scout Pack 299 – 30 people
- Cub Scout Pack 296 – 23 people
- Girl Scout Troop 6165 (10/17/23) – 14 people
- Cub Scout Pack & Troop 297 – 52 people
- Eagle Scout – Nathan Gerbode completed his project which was building a retaining wall and bench along the lower path near the shore of the pond. There were 13 people helping with this project for 6 hours (78 volunteer hours)
- Other groups/visitors/volunteers
  - Forest Family Fun Run/Walk Volunteers - 20 people
  - UWSP Student Observations – 72 people
  - Portage County 4-H Cloverbud Camp Day 1 – 21 people
  - Portage County 4-H Cloverbud Camp Day 2 - 19 people
  - UWSP Low Brass Retreat – 18 people
  - Community Church of Stevens Point Retreat – 26 people
  - Plover Clovers 4-H Club – 41 people
- Past events & activities
  - Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom (EBOC) Updates –
    1. Vault Privy Update: We were awarded a grant for \$6,000 from CFCW. This means we scaled back and ordered the Huffcut Teal ADA compliant, concrete-casted, 1 stall vault privy which costs \$18,735 including delivery. The permit process and soil testing costed \$1,175. The vault toilet is set to be delivered by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Fahrner’s excavating will be helping with the installation and quoted \$1,300. With a \$5,000 donation from Town of Plover, \$6,000 from CFCW and various other donations collected in the past 3 years designated to EBOC (\$1,120), we still have \$9,090 to go. All funds from the Polar Pond Plunge 2023 will go towards the vault toilet as well.
      - a. Action Item: BSF requests approval of \$9,090 from the donation account to pay remaining balance on vault toilet.
      - b. Discussion: As of June 30, 2023 BSF has \$107,403 in our donation account. Karla provided some background on the history of EBOC and the intended use of the space. Sally said the Emery would be very pleased with this project as he always hated to turn people away and would do what he could to welcome as many people as possible to BSF. Gretchen suggested we have a small donation fee (\$25-50) so that groups would have some “skin in the game” and be committed when using EBOC.
      - c. Christie made the motion to spend \$9,090 on the vault toilet. Sally seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
    2. Alex and Steve Lybeck completed the gables. Thank you!
    3. We were awarded \$550 from Cellcom for a locking steel deck box and classroom sets of supplies of hand lenses, compasses, etc.
    4. We are looking to order a sign recognizing donors and stakeholders from Stratford Signs. This sign will match the other designs we have at the Woodlands Shed and will likely cost \$700.
      - a. Action Item: BSF requests approval of \$700 for metal sign recognizing donors at EBOC.

5. We are also looking to order a Schmeekle cedar sign (or equivalent) that says “Emery Babcock Outdoor Classroom” to be displayed up on the south gable end. This sign will likely cost \$500.
    - a. Action Item: BSF requests approval of \$500 for cedar sign labeling building.
    - b. Discussion: It was discussed that these two requests be lumped into one. Gretchen motioned to spend \$1200 on signs for EBOC. Kelly seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.
  6. Autumn Babcock, Emery’s granddaughter, has provided us with drawings that will be laser engraved on wood panels and displayed in the shelter.
  7. The grand opening will be sometime in late spring/early summer.
- High Nitrate Remedy – The well pump that services Noble Lodge and the green bathroom buildings stopped working. Rasmussen Plumbing pulled the pump and we found out it was only at 33 feet deep (not 60-80 like previous thought). Christian, Alex and I revisited the options of a new well or treatment system. We don’t feel a new well shallower than 33 feet will give us reliable, nitrate-limiting water. Therefore, the decision has been made to move forward with the treatment system. We are working with Kris Mielnik with Culligans to complete this project before the end of 2024. Kris is helping to get the DNR and grant paperwork completed. We should receive \$20,000 from the state to help with the \$22,000 cost. We will have approximately \$2,000 left to cover the cost. Karla is looking for other funding sources such as environmental grants.
  - Summer School – Summer school was incredibly successful this year. A huge thanks to Jean Diedrich, Dawn Kerske, and Brooke Hjonacki for leading the program. This year we ran two 2-week sessions (same content, different kids). It was awesome to give more kids an opportunity to spend quality time at BSF. Our recommendation for future years is to run two 3-week sessions of 25 students each. Kurt Freund also ran two 1-week archery camps. BSF was also a field trip destination for several 3-4 grade summer school classes and even First Grade Here I Come classes.
  - Inspections – Both the PCHHS inspection and the ABEE inspections went well. All elements are in good working order. There are 2 low ropes elements that need to be replaced in the next 1-2 years. We will work with ABEE to get a quote and move forward with those improvements before the 24-25 school year.
  - New Staff – A huge welcome to Rose Helm and Amberle Schwarz who were hired as our new naturalist. They are excellent members of the BSF team.
  - SPASH Intern – A huge welcome to Keanna Urban who is our student intern this fall. She is working on a painting project in which she is creating bird wingspan board to display in Sandy Land.
  - Educator Intern – A huge welcome to Elle Schraufnagel who is serving as an environmental educator intern with us through the end of 2023 (and maybe beyond).
  - Plover PD Exercise – Officer Seth Pionke and members of the K-9 units for surrounding PDs used BSF as a training site in August. Local LE are now more familiar with the BSF layout, buildings, and programs.
  - Forest Family Fun Run/Walk – We had a very successful event which was held on August 25, 2023. There were over 250 participants despite the very hot and humid conditions. Thanks to the sponsors, this event was offered completely free of charge and everyone went home with a t-shirt, snacks, and drinks.
  - Family Flashlight Friday – Alex and Jean proposed a new fall-themed event called the Family Flashlight Friday. We promoted it to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and their families and limited it to 20 families or roughly 80 people. The sign-up filled in 20 minutes with 13 families

ending up on the waitlist. There was suppose to be astronomy viewing, night hike and outdoor campfire, but due to rainy, windy and cold conditions, the theme shifted to indoor astronomy project provided by 2 members of the UWSP Astronomy Department and the SPASH Astronomy teacher. The cider press was a huge hit. Thanks to Tony with Whitefeather Organics for supplying that and to Amberle for donating the apples. Instead of the night hike, we had Rex Runke and his son come with a red-tailed hawk, turkey vulture, and barred owl to do an indoor owl program. It was a huge hit and we received great feedback. It is our hope this pilot program will be offered annually.

- Rain Garden – BSF partnered with Ben Franklin, Recycling Connections, City of Stevens Point, Wild Ones, and others to plan for an install a Rain Garden at Ben Franklin as part of a greater landscaping plan to absorb the rain/storm water and prevent it from flooding Polk Street. Planting went well and we're hoping the plants take off in spring.
- Lake Pacawa Story Walk – BSF continues to partner with the Village of Plover Parks by preparing and swapping out the stories. PW PTO sponsored the book for September-October. The book for November-December is Good-Bye Autumn, Hello Winter.

## 5. New Business (Discussion Items)

- Upcoming activities/needs
  - Archery Equipment – Each year, nearly 500 7<sup>th</sup> graders shoot archery at BSF. This year we also ran archery programs for summer school and a special archery camp. As the sport becomes more popular, equipment is needed to be added and damaged equipment replaced. The National Archery in Schools Program is offering \$400 grant towards new or replacement equipment. We also wrote for and received \$1,000 from the Safari Club International. We ordered 5 new bows, archery curtain, 1 new target, and 2 boxes of extra arrows. The invoice for all the equipment is \$1693 (-\$1400 in grants).
    1. Action Item: BSF requests approval of \$293 from the donation account for the replacement and purchase of new archery equipment.
    2. Discussion: Jess made the motion to spend \$293 on archery equipment. Sally seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
  - Tree Work – John Theime with Eagle Tree Care LLC will be donating his crew and equipment for Monday, November 13. We have a few dead pine trees near buildings and the ropes course that he will expertly take down for us.
  - CC Ski Trail Development – The snowmobile trails have been rerouted near and adjacent to the school forest property. Therefore, we are reconstructing some trails including the ski hill. We think it's necessary to update the signage so that students and parents can easily find their way along the loops both for 4<sup>th</sup> grade field trips and for winter open house events. These custom, weatherproof signs can be ordered from Sign Pro. Kurt is working on an official estimate, but I predict we will spend about \$500.
    1. Action Item: BSF requests approval of spending \$500 from the donation account for the purchase of CC ski signs.
    2. Discussion: These signs can be reused as the trails change and are very long lasting. Terry made the motion to spend \$500 on cc ski trail signs. Christie seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- Upcoming Events
  - Polar Pond Plunge – Saturday, December 9, 2023 – Information will be coming out very, very soon. All are welcome to plunge, cheer, or volunteer. Thank you Jeff for sharing it with Cabinet.
  - Winter Open House – Monday January 22, 2024 & Tuesday, January 23, 2024
  - Earth Day Celebration – Sunday, April 21, 2024

## 6. Open Discussion, Questions, Comments

- New Members: Welcome to Jessica Smith who is replacing Glen Reindl as the SPASH representative. We're looking for a PJs student, secondary administrator, and special education teacher to serve on the BSF committee. Miranda Moody was suggested for the admin and Jacque Gerritson was suggested as the SPED representative. Karla will reach out to them.
- Thank you to Sarah O'Donnell for doing a wonderful write-up on the eco-jar and biology class field trips to BSF.
- Thank you to Gretchen and the LEAF program for using BSF as a backdrop for the upcoming LEAF activity guides and promo materials.
- Upcoming Meetings
  - Quarter 2 Meeting – Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 4:00pm
  - Quarter 3 Meeting – Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 4:00pm
  - Quarter 4 Meeting – Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 4:00pm

## 7. Adjournment