



SPACE COAST REGIONAL FRIENDS GROUP  
FLORIDA MASTER NATURALISTS PROGRAM  
BOARD MEETING Minutes  
JANUARY 13, 2022 / 6-7 PM VIA ZOOM

Attendees: Kerri Lubeski, Holly Abeels, Debbie Heystek, Catherine Vecchio, Tara Miller, Sharon Smeenk, Kathy Doner, Ann Cook

- Welcome 2022 BOD and call meeting to order - Catherine Vecchio/President
  - Call to order 6:02 pm
  - Introductions
  - Treasurer/Membership - Sharon Smeenk, Tara Miller Secretary, Ann Cook President at Large, Deb Heystak Past President
- Approval November 2021 meeting minutes
  - Motion – D Heystek
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sharon
- Review financials and Memberships - Sharon Smeenk/Treasurer
  - 8 Renewals (including 1 new member)
  - 3 Finals
  - Checking - \$3,109.09
  - Savings - \$110.58
  - P&L for December \$125.48
  - Patch Donation - \$10
  - 66 Members
  - Shared 5 years of income / expenses
  - Motion to accept – Tara, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sharon
  - Discussed Budget. Use of funds to be detailed for members.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Scholarship - social media advertising, presentations from past recipients
  - 5 recipients, only 3 are current members
  - Debbie proposed some criteria for the recipients to give back
  - Catherine will reach out to the recipients for feedback and presentation opportunities to fulfill the scholarship commitment.
  - Discussed bringing back the Scholarship committee.
  - **Actions:** Sharon and Deb to send Catherine the names / paperwork
  - Catherine will reach out to Chapter Members to volunteer for the Scholarship Committee.
- Dues - Kerry Lubeski (for chapter or for endowment or both?)
  - Did a poll of other Chapters in the state. Findings: our membership dues are comparable and our member numbers are higher than most. We are not experiencing anything out of ordinary
  - Discussion:



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- Endowment donations and how to encourage members to donate to the endowment
- Need to discuss with membership what the endowment is for and better explain what the endowment covers and will accomplish in the long run
- Suggestion made to have Marty address to the membership and explain
- Dues to stay the same for 2022
- Endowment donation may be made at some point in the year based on additional Board discussion; need to donate what the membership contributed
- Social Media Manager description of duties Current member Julia Clark has volunteered for this position.
  - Can form a Facebook page
  - Discussion:
    - Who should the audience be – members?, someone who has taken a class?, depends on goal for the group
    - Great way to gain interest in the group, get interest from similarly minded people
    - Would be good to see pros/cons of how this would work
    - Would be a positive thing to encourage people to join the Chapter
    - Gives opportunity to stay in contact with classmates
    - Julia and her team would be the moderator
    - Friends Chapter Website has lost some of its features over time due to budget cuts. Updates and other options discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Monthly/State Newsletter
  - Catherine wants to bring back monthly newsletter
  - Will be asking for authors
- Volunteer service record
  - No longer have the ability for people to add volunteer hours on the web site
  - Catherine wants to track, maybe create a Google form to capture vol hours
- Quarterly Membership meeting with speaker. February 10, 6:30
  - Would like to have as a picnic; decided to have a picnic as part of a monthly event
  - Suggested speaker: Megan Stolen. **Action:** Holly to ask,
  - Other suggestions: Frog Watch, All about Manatees, Wildflowers, Lagoon research - look to see who is available quarterly meeting dates



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- Can't have in Cocoa on the 10<sup>th</sup> ; location decision will be made based on speaker's preference
- 7:24 motion made to adjourn; 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Heystek

**Not discussed:**

**UPCOMING COURSE SCHEDULE** - Holly Abeels

**OUTREACH EVENTS** –

- Do we start them up again in 2022? Suggestions?
  - 10th Annual Pioneer Day, Pine Island, Sam's House - Feb 12
  - Sampson Island Nature Park - Feb 12. Speaker Requested.
  - Hoot in the Park - Florida Wildlife Hospital - November
  - Ocean Reef Beach Festival, Satellite Beach – December

**OUTINGS FOR 2022** -

- Suggestions?
  - Space Coast Audubon - recurring events. Sign up thru Meetup
  - Forever Florida - For those that missed the popular outing last year. Date TBD
  - Recycling sorting center and landfill
  - Kayak trip

**SPEAKER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Megan Stolen - Hubbs - "Wildlife Crime/Forensic Science"
- Scholarship Recipients

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- BOD meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Currently they will be held
- via Zoom. If you have a topic of interest at any time for future meetings please email Catherine Vecchio at [spacecoastmasternaturalists@gmail.com](mailto:spacecoastmasternaturalists@gmail.com) or call 770-605-5092

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- **Space Coast Friend Group Committees**, Chapter Activities and Events, Education and Outreach, Awards and Recognition, Membership, Fund-Raising



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- **100 Acre Hollow Pollinator Series** - Naturalists needed? Checking with Rochelle Hood
- **Science Fair Judges** - January and February -
- Brevard County Schools- [Luchten.Shereen@Brevardschools.org](mailto:Luchten.Shereen@Brevardschools.org). Holly has been a Judge for many years. Contact her for more info and West Melbourne Elementary School of Science, chaired by our own President at Large Ann Cook - [annook2002@yahoo.com](mailto:annook2002@yahoo.com)
- **Want to be part of the FMNP Advisory Board?** Email the [fmnpcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:fmnpcoordinator@gmail.com) DEADLINE?
- **Want to build a newly designed oyster habitat?** The design is called an Oyster Prism. Limited space. Register online with the City of Cocoa Beach
  - <https://cocoa-beach.recdesk.com/Community/Program>
  - **Session Choices:**
  - Friday, January 14th, 10am- 12:30pm
  - Saturday, January 15th, 9:00am- 11:30pm
  - Saturday, January 15th, 1pm- 3:30pm
  - **Location:**
  - Cocoa Beach Public Works Facility
  - 1600 Minutemen Cswy