

HIDDEN LAKE

Aquatic Wildlife Management Committee

Meeting Minutes 9/21/2023

Location: 23 Ledge Rd

Committee Members Present:

Keha Esposito kwind159@yahoo.com
Mary-Beth Russo russm002@gmail.com
Kerri Wilson dragonfly747@outlook.com

Absent:

Betty Barsevich bbarsevich@yahoo.com
Karen Bullock kbullock65@comcast.net

Associate Members Present:

Mary Shea Mshea47@aol.com

Absent:

Linda Lamitola LCLamitola@aol.com

Board Member oversight:

Jay Cassella (HLA Pres.) hlapresident1@gmail.com

AGENDA:

I. Review of Summer to Date—Wildlife sightings

- Sightings around the lake
Kingfisher
Green Heron (Mary had a picture of it)

II. Discussion of Aquatic Species—Bryozoan

- Discussion about bryozoan and whether they still were around the lake.

III. Status of Butterfly/Pollinator Gardens

- Plants look good. Plant more sedum in container garden near the HLA shed. Check to ensure the sedum is native.
- Keha has metal tags for plants
- Need for more milkweed
- Discussion on how to germinate milkweed seeds for next year's planting

IV. Additional Money Available for Fall Planting

- Discussion of target area for new garden on Shore Beach. The garden will be rectangular in shape.
- Plan is to measure and stake out area. Then lay a tarp to kill the grass. Then dig.
- Plant by October 14th

V. Update on Butterfly Way Station

- Kerri is now a registered Butterfly Way Station
- Below are links to learn more about Wildlife Habitat

<https://www.nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat/>
<https://nativebackyards.com/certified-wildlife-habitat/>

- Mary-Beth (MB) mentioned Doug Tallamy's Home Grown National Park. See link below for more information
<https://www.homegrownnationalpark.org/>

VI. AWC Workshops

- Focus will be on 3 invasive plants that will be the focus of the workshop on October 15th. The invasives are Multiflora rose, Japanese knotweed, and Asiatic bittersweet (formerly Oriental).
- Topics for the workshop will include
 - Share information on the detrimental effects of the 3 invasive species on our environment
 - Have samples or pictures
- MB will create an announcement of the event and one-pager for each of the invasive species.
- Jay will purchase coffee and munchkins for the event through HLA funds since the activity benefits all HLA members
- In the Spring, the committee will hold another workshop to
 - Highlight plantings in the butterfly/pollinator gardens
 - Share information on Wildlife Habitat, Butterfly Way Station, Home Grown National Park

VII. Funding Source

- Keha brought up the possibility of funding projects through the HLA general fund. Jay said that could be a possibility. Need to be brought before the BOG and general membership.

VIII. Miscellaneous

- Jay mentioned the removal of the Japanese knotweed by the spillway. He has reached out to AJ to discuss its removal.

Next meeting date: October 19, 6:30