

Executive Director Report for June 18, 2021

Another busy season...

I worked on our first (hopefully annual) Plant Sale. As you will see, we had over 400 participants. sold almost 14,000 plants and net almost \$20,000.

I think this would be called a hattrick in hockey language. We engaged many new people with the organization, we raised money, and we improved the environment with many new native plants.

Since I saw many of you there, you know we had another fabulous Music Festival event. If you were there and I didn't see you, I hope you enjoyed yourselves! Val worked so hard to make it a success, along with several amazing volunteers!

We continued to work on the Strategic Plan which we will hopefully approve at this meeting. We have started the data gathering piece for the Capital Campaign.

I worked on the Save Noe Pond initiative with our attorney and consultant, and we sent an environmental report to Chatham Township and proposed developer.

I continue to spend a lot of time on the Rolling Knolls Superfund. I planned and held two Community Advisory Group meetings. Along with the Refuge staff, I planned and held several tours of the site for various stakeholders. I had various meetings with the town, the Refuge, EPA, and our consultants. I reviewed additional Freedom of Information Act documents and wrote a quarterly Technical Assistance Grant report. I am in the process of submitting expenses to the EPA for reimbursement and preparing a request for additional funding.

I worked on the Earth Day Appeal letter with Val and we are drafting the Chairman's Appeal now. We also wrote and are sending several acquisition mailings to attendees at our various recent events such as the Plant Sale participants and Music Festival attendees.

We continue to hold periodic staff meetings and I am taking the opportunity of hiring new staff to reorganize the staff structure. I have placed the ad for Debbie's office manager job and will hopefully have had a few interviews by the time of the board meeting. I am also placing ads to replace Adam as our Education Associate and I will be looking to hire an additional part-time program staff person.

Sue and I spent many hours on the budget forecast for the balance of this fiscal year and next year's budget.

I participated in both our Finance and Development Committee meetings.

I attended JCP&L's tree planting for Earth Day in Long Hill.

As always, I met with several Board members.

I had various meetings regarding the Ferber property acquisition. PSE&G is really trying to find a way to make it happen and we are now working on exchanging property of similar value. I had been under the impression that we would be okay to exchange more acreage, but apparently it also has to be similar value, because it's a public utility with rate payers. We are still working on it!

I continue to assist with grant and report writing.

I am working with Paterson on additional Adopt a Catch Basin initiatives.

And finally, I am still working on our lease with the National Park. They are being completely unreasonable on an insurance request and I have not yet been able to satisfy them.