

THURSTON NATURE CENTER
Committee Meeting

September 13, 1967

Mr. Mel Larson, Chairman

Present: Mrs. Lavelly, Mrs. Levenson, D. Fithian, H. Collins, D. Aberdeen, C. Blackburn, R. Mehlborn, Mrs. Mehlborn, Mrs. Conboy, L. Lewis, T. Butts, E. Hayes, Mrs. Hayes, G. Jabs, Mrs. Jabs, M. Larson.

The pond committee's first meeting of the school year 1967-68 was called to order at 8:05 P.M. Mr. Larson reminded everyone that these meetings are open to anyone interested in the development of the pond area. Anyone with ideas or suggestions is invited to call him at 761-2418.

Mrs. Conboy and Mrs. Levenson stated that, with the exception of the Douglas firs, which could be watered, the plants put in this April have done very well. Mrs. Conboy also stated that a number of interesting birds have been seen recently around the pond: the sora rail, the virginia rail, green herons, blue herons, grebes, a kingfisher, black-capped night herons, and mallards.

Mr. Lewis discussed the problem of excess water as a result of heavy rain. A bourn, a sloping hump which will run from the bridge to the sharp bend in the macadam, is to be built by the southwest side of the pond. The present dam will be replaced by a concrete sewer at the end of the ditch which will run into Renfrew extension. It is expected that the sewer pipes which have been lying on the Georgetown island will shortly be buried, as originally planned. They will carry water into the pond only when the water level is higher than 3 inches over the sewer, a situation which is expected to occur infrequently.

Mrs. Levenson mentioned that on Friday, September 15, Julie Weinhold, a Thurston school 5th grader, will go to Washington with Dr. Stapp and Mr. Scott Westerman to attend the premiere of the film We're on Our Way, part of which was filmed here at Thurston at the planting this spring. It is expected that this movie will be shown on November 16 at the general PTO meeting at the school. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar!

The development of outlot A was discussed. It was recommended that interested homeowners plant trees on outlot A in order to help prevent erosion. Trees suitable for planting would be redbud, mountain ash, flowering dogwood, floribunda rose, lilac, pin oak, maple, tulip maple, beech, magnolia, ginkgo (male and female), and red-blossomed crabapple. Evergreens should not be planted there until spring. It was mentioned that Whitaker's Evergreen Nursery, 6480 Whitmore Lake Road, which sells various kinds of trees, is presently having a sale. Woodchips are also needed in that area. Mr. Butts said that the athletic club is interested in working on outlot A as soon as ownership has been transferred to it from the Smokler Co. He also said that homeowners should think about the possibilities of owning outlot A before releasing it to the school board.

Fund raising was discussed. Mrs. Larson has offered to organize a card party. A bake sale was also suggested. Mrs. Conboy said that Mr. Elzay had told her of a matching fund available for nature centers. Mr. Aberdeen said this should be done through the school board. He suggested that Don Boyer, conservation officer for this area, be invited to the pond committee meetings.

It was mentioned that motorcycle and bicycle riding in the woods should be discouraged. Children can be encouraged to take an active, positive interest in the nature center. Mr. Larson said that the children should be involved as much as possible with the pond and with cleaning up around the pond.

Mrs. Levenson cautioned against overuse of the pond. Frogs and other animals which are removed from the pond, or pond area, should not be killed but should be returned in order to maintain the balance of nature.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

Please pass these minutes along to a neighbor who does not have children in Thurston school, and thus may not have an opportunity to read of developments in the nature center.

Virginia Hayes
Secretary