



TROOP 181 BSA COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 25, 2008

Present: Phil Reece, Lois Blondin, Chris Wyld, Eric Schmidt, Craig and Matt Louthain, Greg Poulisse, Terry Nichols, Sandy Schwartz, and Ed Blondin.

Meeting started at 8:15 PM

Treasurer's Report: See Report from Greg.

Next Committee Meeting: December 23, 2008 @ 6:30 PM

Past Events

Wreath Sales (Sept. 23): (07/22) Do we have someone to coordinate it? It's recommended that we check with Adriana and Tracy to see if they would be willing to do it again. (08/26) Adriana and Tracy agreed to run this again. Initial information was given out at the Family Night. Adriana just received the packet and still needs to figure the prices. Terry would like to look over the information. (09/30) The forms will be handed-out next week. Terry and Adriana went over the sheets and price lists tonight. Make sure wreaths are delivered in Mt. Morris instead of Rockford; total time to pick them up is less. It's suggested that the wreaths be dropped off at the tree lot instead of at Steve Fedor's house. If the construction trailer is there that would work otherwise it would not. (10/21) Steve wants to pick them up in Mt. Morris instead of Rockford. (11/25) Some checks have been turned-in. All were delivered on Saturday. Sales were very low; about half of last year. We did not double the purchase cost for the sales price this year. Sales are down and profit levels are lower.

Popcorn (Fall): Jessica says the pickup will be on November 16th, not the 22nd as the calendar states. Jessica would like to give up the job of Kernel; we need to find her replacement. (10/21) It needs to be changed on the website. (11/25) All popcorn was delivered. Scout accounts will get \$1145.55. Four units were left over; Wicks are going to try to sell them.

Veterans Day Parade (Nov. 8): Terry confirmed it with the village. Terry wants to keep tree lot setup on the same day. (10/21) Nothing new. (11/25) We had 27 people in uniform; including 15 scouts.

Tree Lot Campout (Nov. 22-23): Are we still going to have it? Yes. Nothing new. (10/21) It's suggested that we allow new Webelos to come on that busy day so that they can start earning points towards Summer Camp if they come to our Troop. It was suggested not to let them because we may be tight on money. It's suggested as a marketing tool. Do we want to make other times available to them also? Terry does not want to have those Webelos at the campout as it can be brutal weather. A motion was presented and accepted that Webelos families be allowed to help with tree delivery in order to earn points. (11/25) 14 youth and 4 adults attended. Nobody complained about being cold.

Jamie Boone Yard Rake (Nov. 22): *Unknown, Brian will verify. (post-meeting note – yes) (10/21) November 22nd is when it is scheduled. Very busy weekend; we need to really promote it. (11/25) Belinda took attendance for Bill LeFevre. The group earned \$400. (Last year was \$450.)*

Future Events

Tree Lot Schedule (Nov–Dec): *Ed will find someone to work with. (10/21) Ed is not here. Schedule will be ready for Court of Honor, per Lois. (11/25) Ed will update for Phil to post on the website. About 12 slots are still open.*

Christmas Party (Dec. 16): *Do we want to raise the price from \$7.50? Terry said it was up to the PLC. (11/25) Eric will purchase the pizza. Lois will take care of the paper goods and beverages. Eric has records from the past 4-5 years. Matt authorized \$7.50 for the gift-exchange maximum.*

Klondike Derby (Jan. 10): *The boys wanted to staff it only. (10/21) The campground did not get reserved, so it may not happen. Eric suggested Snow Storm in Belvidere for older scouts. (11/25) There will be a Derby. It's been changed to the 10th, from the 17th and conducted at Camp Lowden instead of Camp Indian Trails. We may have some adults and scouts able to staff it. Eric will handle it. The Troop is scheduled to go to Lake Ripley over the weekend of the 10th.*

Continuous Fire (Feb. 7-14): *Are we staffing it again? Yes. Check with our newest Adults to check on their class schedules. Don Reis will continue to schedule us on Wednesday's, unless we request a change. It will now be at Harlem United Methodist Church, the same as last year. It will no longer be at the river. (11/25) We have a shift on Wednesday the 11th, 6:00 AM – 2:00 PM. The church is on Alpine Road.*

Scout Sunday CVUMC (Feb. 15?): *Pastor Nancy hasn't answered Terry's email yet as to when it will be. Bobby will be doing Scout Sunday on Feb. 8th at the Catholic Church to receive his religious award, and needs 2 color guards for American and Troop flags. (10/21) No date yet from CVUMC. (11/25) No date yet from Pastor Nancy.*

Scouting for Food (Feb. 28 and Mar. 7): *Who is going to run it this year? It's suggested Ryan and Derek do it. (10/21) Motioned and carried, even though they opposed. (11/25) They did not disagree tonight either.*

Swimming (2009): *(08/26) Belinda has contacted Jefferson and spoke to the Athletic Director. We should be able to use the pool this year all during our normal meeting times. (Belvidere HS is going to use Harlem's pool instead.) The request has been submitted to the School Board. We should be getting the approval letter and contract within the next week. (Post meeting note: Belinda received a phone call from the Assistant Principal on Wednesday telling us that the Administrator denied our request due to conflicts with the locker rooms. Rockford College is still available for Sundays.) (09/30) We got a contract from Jefferson. The first night is the first Tuesday in January and the other ones are Mondays. We have had problems getting pools and are looking for suggestions of other places. The Millennium Center was suggested, but we could not get it last year. We need to recruit a lifeguard soon, Terry will call Marcus Tryggestad. Mary Nedland worked really hard to help us out this year -- THANKS MARY!!! (10/21) Contract mailed-in. Belinda will call to make sure they received it. We need to submit a Local Tour Permit; Belinda will take care of this also. Terry sent an email to Marcus about being a lifeguard for this next year. We will be inviting the Webelos to join us. (11/25) Paul Dandrea is a certified lifeguard. He needs to update his CPR. Marcus has not responded yet. Wayne Martin from*

Troop 418 is certified, and attended last year; home: 815/623-6424, cell: 815/494-7190. We need to push aquatic advancements during the next couple months!

Summer Camp Lowden (July 5–11): *Summer camp at Camp Lowden has been reserved. The Council needs \$100 deposit to hold the date. (10/21) Sandy needs another \$100; it is a \$200 deposit. (11/25) The deposit has been paid. Prices may go up from last year (\$218). Sandy will update.*

High adventure camp (2009): *(5/20) Paul brought the information on High Adventure Camps in Maine. The Boy Scout High Adventure one has 3 levels of Kayaking. You get to pick your own trek anywhere from calm waters to whitewater trails. The cost is about \$900 without travel fee. This covers everything they need. The duration of the trip is 6-days minimum, up to 8-days. If both boys and girls will be going we would need one adult of each sex to attend. The crew size should be 6 to 8. Maine High Adventure is the name. Deposit would be due by March 1st for reservation. Balance would be due upon arrival. The other ones he has are not Boy Scout run, but are private outfitters and the costs are similar. Ed suggests put options to boys and let them choose. Paul gave Belinda the brochure on it. (6/10) Tabling until it can be presented to the boys and they chose one. (07/22) Still tabled. (08/26) We talked a little about Sea Base, also about canoeing. Sandy suggested putting a person in charge of taking ideas. Sandy said she will do it. Ed will announce it at next meeting. Hopefully, there will be some planning at the September meeting. (09/30) Ed announced that we need to come up with ideas. Send them to Ed via email. They need to be to him before the November Court of Honor so we can present it that night to the boys. (10/21) Sandy suggested Washington DC; maybe tie it into a Jamboree 2010 visit. (11/25)*

The Tall Ship, Windy (Aug. 22): *The cost is \$750 -- 50 people would make it \$15 per person. There will be a campout with it. Terry says we should consider inviting other troops or packs to fill-out our minimum costs, like we did last time. A \$250 deposit is needed. (10/21) Sandy paid the deposit and suggested we invite Webelos to come for the day also. (11/25) Concentrate on Webelos I and II of associated packs; take fliers to their Blue and Gold Banquets. We may offer it to other troops also.*

National Scout Jamboree (2010) – *It's something for us to consider! (08/26) The internet Courier gives the following information that is being passed around. Greg mentioned that he picked-up some brochures at summer camp and they were back with our paperwork in the back room. We discussed it and there was a suggestion that we could possibly just go as visitors. Nothing was decided, just discussed. Terry said he thought this was the last time that it would be in Virginia. (09/30) Nothing new. (10/21) The council is still looking for people to attend. They want to fill two troops (72-scouts and 8-adults at \$2000 each), and aren't half way there yet. If they don't get enough in a couple of weeks they will be dropping one of the troops. We believe any scout troop can visit on one day. (11/25) Sign-up ends in January.*

Training:

Youth Protection: Do it online then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Training is good for two years. Make sure **you** do it through the **District website** and not the national one!

<http://www.wanchanagi.org/?p=training&a=htm&page=YouthProtect>

(10/21) Phil is planning this for next month during the Tree Lot schedule. There was a blank spot on the Troop calendar, so Terry put the videos on the schedule that night, November 18. It will be the last meeting before the tree lot. Phil would like to do the Adult video on a different date. (11/25) Both levels of the youth video were presented to the youth. A Time to Tell was broken. The church had two TV's, our DVD player and one other. Phil will put the Facilitator's Guides on the website. There is at least one DVD with all three training guides. Eric has it.

Fast Start: Do it online, and then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Make sure **you** do it through the **District website** and not the national one!

<http://www.wanchanagi.org/?p=training&a=htm&page=FastStart>

New Leader Essentials:

Leader Specific:

<http://www.wanchanagi.org/?p=training&a=htm&page=ldrSpec> Spring is published.

Hazardous Weather Training:

<http://www.scouting.org/my scouting/elearning.aspx>

Do it online, then let MaryAnn Bushaw know that you did it. Make **sure you** do it through the **National website**. It is available on the Council website, but that has problems.

Wood Badge Training C-23-07 (Aug. 24-26 & Sept. 21-23, 2007): (07/22) State adopt-a-highway (08/26) has moved to County Adopt-A-Road. We're looking at dates in Sept. (maybe part of Troop JLT), and again in Nov. (maybe part of Tree Lot Set-up). Phil is hoping to finish his ticket, sometime in November. (09/30) JLT did first cleanup. Phil is hoping to complete them by the end of November or early December. (11/25) The 4th one is completed. Still needs to do the 5th one.

Wood Badge For the 21st Century C-25-08 (Aug. 22-24 and Sep. 19-21, 2008): (5/20) Tim is all set to go. Belinda signed-up and paid today. (6/10) Nothing new to report. (07/22) Ideas for tickets are; make up schedules for Roundtable, see MaryAnn. Sandy said you can volunteer at Day Camp also. (08/26) Belinda and Tim attended their first session this last weekend. Sandy is on staff as a Troop Guide. (09/30) Belinda had to tell what her ticket items were; we will get Tim's next month. (10/21) Tim is working his ticket. He is doing Woodcutters Ball, Baloo training, New Scout orientation, Community Pinewood Derby, and one other item. Belinda has 1 done.

Wood Badge For the 21st Century C-54-09 (Aug. 21-23 and Sept. 18-20, 2009):

2009 announcements are out. Tom Siefken will be the course director. (11/25) Dates are now set.

Miscellaneous Business

Rank Board: (07/22) Still, no progress. Terry will supply Eric with names and dates to get new plates made. (08/26) Nothing new to report. (09/30) Nothing new. (10/21) Paul has 30 cut and will stain them. Eric is working on name plates. (11/25) The name plates are installed. Terry updated the names and places for the advancement board, but scouts moved them around. Since, they were told to leave them alone.

A garage at the fire station: (08/26) Building permit! Contractor! And groundbreaking this week!! (09/30) We saw the framing up for the garage at the Fire Station. They are working on it. When theirs is complete, we will get 2/3 of their old building.

Trees: (08/26) Terry got a call from Dan McClusky, who has a tree farm up in Northern Wisconsin. He is trying to sell us trees. Prices are very high. He is charging \$16 for 6-8' Scotch pines; we paid \$10.00 for the same from our supplier. Terry told him "no." Terry would like to compare our wreath prices to his wreath prices. Adriana will show him the packet she received. Terry heard that Cherry Vale Mall wants a tree retailer at the Mall this year. Terry called the assistant manager about us possibly doing it and is awaiting a call back. Competition could be a problem this year. Cherry Valley will be selling trees in town this year at the local

nursery. Terry also got a call from Harold Kingma Tree Farm and he is going out of business for wholesale. Kingman gave Terry the name and number of another vendor; however, when he called the number it was an invalid number. Terry called Harold back and is waiting for another person to contact. We are officially looking for a tree grower. (09/30) We bought (260) trees at \$10.00 per tree with 50 cents to deliver from Kingman. \$16.00 per tree and 2.00 for delivery from McClusky is a comparison. \$11.50 per tree (6/7' Scotch pine) and unknown delivery cost is a quote from Hensler; they're #1 trees. About a \$6 spread on the Fraser Firs. The last 2 years our profit was \$7,500, suspect it will be only \$4,000 this year. Terry is going to cut back tree order to 400. We will reject the Cherry Vale Mall offer, but they will be selling trees. Our competition is up, but the economy is down. Troop 57 locked in with McClusky but lost their spot for selling. Other troops are having problems also. Mall wanted a tree retailer outside of Bergner's. Terry thinks our business would go down; need to match times of mall (more labor for us), and they'll charge us to be there. Dr. Swanson remains delighted that we will use his corner. It's suggested we lock in to the \$11.50 cost and raise our prices. Terry said we need to be careful on raising it too much since our competition sells them for lower prices. Don't know if the construction will be done before we get there or not. Has anyone checked in to a trailer yet? Ed will call. Start with Lon Trygggestad. We need to get someone to organize the tree lot, with Ed as their advisor. We need to get new adults involved. (10/21) Trees are ordered. We're getting them from Hensler Nursery in Hamlet, IN. John's price for the smallest tree is \$11.50 (not the \$10.00 cost charged last year). We're buying 150 of them. His prices are better than the other 5 quotes we got; better than any tree price we could get in IL or WI. They are "firsts." He does not go with the conventional 3-level grading system. We have to send a 25% deposit when we send back the contract. Dean Pick was suggested for delivering our trees. He needs \$1.35 per tree to deliver, versus 50 cents last year. We are buying 400 trees instead of 410. We're getting 140 Fraser (20 more than last year) and 260 pines; that's 10 trees less and \$2300 more. We will need two checks; one for delivery and another for trees. Motioned and seconded that we get these trees. We need to get our license from the Department of Agriculture; Terry told Greg to get it when it comes available. We sold pines for \$4.50 a foot in previous years, but we'll have to raise it for this year. Terry will take care of re-doing our price board. Terry will run the new prices by some key people before setting them. We're hoping to cover 50% of the margin. Trees will be here November 22nd at 9:00 AM. We are still going to offer a discount to Scout families. (11/25) Trees delivered. We got 257 SP out of 260 and 147 Fraser fir's out of 140. We paid \$50 more for delivery than quoted (Dean Pick 574/780-2121 misquoted and forgot to include tolls). He originally wanted \$100 extra. Very good turn out from our scouts and three WEBELOS from Pack 429 attended. All trees looked very good; green and full. One tree was taller than our sign.

Rotary Sign: (09/30) Rev. Richard Wang, former minister at CVUMC, said the Rotary sign needs to be repaired. He suggested a scout take it as a project. It's a sign with a case that takes announcements; it belongs to the Rotary Club. Resources could be provided. They would really like a scout or the troop to take on the project. Ed showed an interest and got his phone number. They would like to have it done before the winter sets in. (10/21) It's a small sign. Who's going to do it? (11/25) Nick Horan is looking for an Eagle project. Ed will look at it and see if it is big enough for an Eagle project. Ed will contact Rev. Wang.

New Business

None

Adjourned 9:10 p.m.