

January 25th, 2010

Raleigh Robertson, a representative from the local Land Conservancy of Kingston, gave a brief talk to SCB. He spoke about what the Land Conservancy and some of the opportunities available for students. The main focus of the Land Conservancy is to preserve habitat in the counties of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington.

- Should we donate some of the funds from the Photo Contest to the Land Conservancy?
 - A motion was put forward to giving money, a maximum of \$1000, to the land conservancy, and then it was seconded.
 - The motion was laid open for discussion:
 - CONS: \$1000 may go along way in certain areas of the conservancy, but we have only just met some of the issues they are talking about. This charity seems a little removed from what we are.
 - FOR: This is very linked to the QUBS station. Many SCB members are also Land Conservancy members.
 - CONS: Would it be better to give our donation to a charity that is just starting out?
 - FOR: If it meets the goals of this local chapter and the parent chapters, then it may be worth investing into.
 - People who donate to SCB may not know what their money is going towards. We can mention that some of the funds raised during the photo contest will be given to this charity, so they are aware of what they are supporting.
 - Should we go visit a property to see what we are investing into?
 - Maybe we should go see what a monitoring event is like, and see whether it is worth investing into?
 - PRO: It is also in Kingston, supporting a local issue.
 - PRO: It is indirectly helping to promote education on biological diversity and promoting conservation.
 - Should we ask if we could donate to specific areas of the Land Conservancy? (Specifically, the monitoring section).
 - CONS: The people who are coming to the photo contest and buying the holiday cards are not understanding what we really do. It may complement the initiative of the chapter, but it may be difficult for people to understand how it is related to our society.
 - PRO: Make plenty of information at the photo contest so that people interested in donating know how it is related.
 - Maybe we should talk about this next week, take some time to look into it, and see if this is something we really want to do?

- PRO: We work each year to naturalize regions such as Queens and local schoolyards, now we have a chance to donate to saving local natural land.
- NOTE: The vote will be delayed until next week's meeting.
- We still need to prepare for a summer student to tend to the gardens.

Social committee

- Will help the photo committee to plan their reception on Thursday, March 10th.

Education committee

- School naturalization program: Still waiting back for the schools to respond and give their portfolios in.
- Worried that doing the naturalization project too early in the year will be an issue because the ground may be too hard (cold).
- The trees should be okay if planted earlier than June.
- If we do it in April, the children are still in school, so the students might trample the gardens inadvertently.
 - We could block it off until it is finished.
- It depends on what kind of naturalization you are doing. If you are doing many tiny plants, they might not survive the colder weather. It depends on what the naturalization plan is.
- It also snows in April, which may kill your plants
- They will talk to landscapers to find out what they suggest.
- Students may not be able to help during the exam period. Or they leave right after the exam period. If they cannot help during the summer, they may not be able to help during the exam period as well.
- May should be fine. Maybe it should be better to plan this event for May.
- June was chosen last year because it was most convenient for the school.
- Can we give consolation prizes to the schools that do not win?
- Last year, they set up a gmail account, since there is a lot of traffic from this event. May want to use it again this year.

Photo contest committee

- Spoke to Mike Runtz, he is flexible with the pay, we can pay him whatever we can to speak at the Photo Contest event.
- Spoke with the department of Science, and they are willing to donate \$250 to the cause, and a tentative room available for Mike Runtz' speech.
- They are hoping for a small, more intimate room for the speech. It would be from 2:30-4:00pm, for the reception, speech and photo prizes. Mike would speak Thursday afternoon.

- The reception last year was not very useful, as many people did not buy drinks from the bar.
- What if we supply our own juice and cookies?
 - If anyone gets sick, we are liable. It would be better to go through Queen's
- Maybe we can find alternative methods of refreshments without alcohol, in order to minimize the costs.
- We will advertise the reception, if we decide to do this.
- It costs money to have a reception run through Queen's
- About 30-40 people came to the reception last year.
- We could suggest that after the reception, we go the Grad Club. Or even have the reception at the Grad Club.
- People will feel more inclined to go to an informal setting such as the Grad Club. Plus we will save money by not ordering a reception through Queen's.
- We still have the dropbox from last year for people to drop off their photos.

Final notes:

- Is there still any interest in going through with the Biodiversity Day?
 - Going to find out how much it costs last year.
 - It was done on Earth Day last year. It was pretty family-oriented, so it was a success for families and children.
 - Maybe we could have the event, but with local speakers rather than out-of-town speakers, so that we can minimize costs?
 - And we should have live animals to draw people in.
 - We could possibly invite the school that won the school naturalization project to come to the Biodiversity day.

End of meeting.