

OF09 Planning Meeting 12/17/08 Minutes

At 6:05 AM, Dave Hilbish called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were Dave Hilbish, Curt Gierhan, Doris Gierhan, Matt Kreager, Patty Fisel, Paul Fought, Nancy Fought, Gene Lightner, and Chris Fought. No treasurer's report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

- Matt Kreager will come up with a list of area contractors in order to garner additional support in this area. We will begin contacting these contractors as soon as possible.
- Patty has submitted our request for funding to the Hagen Foundation. A budget of \$10,000 was presented.
- Dave Hilbish will contact Mike Weimer about promo video.
- Christmas Caroling/ Cookie Distribution was extremely successful with very positive feedback from participants and residents. Will do again!
 - We had 28 carolers and 34 full plates of cookies.
 - Arrange a meeting place after for hot chocolate and socializing
 - Start a little earlier (Maybe 5 or 5:30)
 - Make a booklet/ brochure to put in with cookies
- TV Crew filmed Essex Project on 12/19/08

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraising:

- Paul and Nancy Fought will contact Diane Groff about grant writing- she had expressed interest.

Projects:

- Discussed possibly teaming up with Noble County Habitat for Humanity
- Chain'O'Lakes correctional facility has completed approximately ¼ mile of the riverwalk. Work continues. Wayne has gotten positive feedback from both the park as well as inmates.

Miscellaneous:

- The Elkhart River Restoration Association will be doing a river education seminar on June 5th and 6th. Topics include Rain Barrels, Watershed Management, Water runoff, etc.