

Sunday, July 18, 2010

Meeting #25 for the NJ Flora Project

*The following minutes are summary notes for 7/2010 evening phone call:*

The July meeting was held as an evening telephone conference to accommodate field work and other summertime activities. The conference call began at 7 PM sharp. Participants included: Wayne Ferren Jr., Stevens Heckscher, and Joe Arsenault.

The meeting purpose: 2010 FNJ 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter general meeting.

**FNJP Business:**

Non-Profit Status: It was announced FNJP has received the federal non-profit status under the Federal IRS code 501 (c)(3). The official declaration was made June 2, 2010 and we are considered to be a non-profit retroactive to April 21 2008! Our group is now capable of fund raising for the betterment of the NJ Flora and this will now begin in earnest.

Taxes: FNJP is not responsible for taxes from this point into the future. We are responsible to file yearly with the IRS and Joe Arsenault will handle this application procedure. NJ does not require non-profit filing and we have been deemed exempt from corporate business taxes as well.

Banking: Exceptional circumstances force Joe Arsenault to close FNJP's TD Bank NA checking account. When we opened our account it was a savings in Commerce Bank. We selected Commerce Bank because it was a NJ bank and it was statewide. It also had no fee options that provided the best of all banking conditions. When TD bought Commerce they changed the checking account procedures. When we became incorporated I transferred the savings account into a checking account. We were no fee \$100 limit. Well, apparently the no fee account was only *free* for 1 year. After April 2010 the bank began withdrawing \$25 each month, for maintenance fees. When they got our account below \$100 with fees they charged us an additional \$25 for being under \$100. I rushed to add fees thinking it was a balance issue. When the teller told me the fees were tied to monthly "maintenance fees" *and* the account dropping below \$100 due to fee, I immediately closed the account. As of May 2010 our checking account has been with a local Vineland bank, Newfield National Bank. Here, we have a no fees/no balance business account. Newfield NB also gave us a small supply (~25) of blank checks (TD gave us 4). I purchased a supply of FNJP printed checks, so we are "Back in Business".

**Committee Reports:**

- Funding / Banking: Joe Arsenault: As of July 17, 2010 the new incorporation checking account has \$106.20; withdraw \$21.75 for printed checks.
- Membership / Dues: Joe Arsenault- We received one renewing memberships since our last meeting.
- Outreach / Newsletter: Joe Arsenault –Newsletter: our next issue is still awaiting input from our members. If new info does not arrive by mid-August, Joe will

- publish a shorter version just to let our members we are still actively pursuing the project.
- IT/WEB Committee: Bill Olson has a made inroads to getting the web page up to date. He will be working with web savvy volunteers to produce a web presence that does not require HTML programming. More will come on this topic by our October meeting.
  - Nomenclature Committee: Bill Olson- No report from the Nomenclature committee.
  - Atlas Committee: No report from the Atlas chairperson.
  - Manual Committee: Wayne Ferren, chairperson: Wayne indicated there was no news on the manual. Wayne did finish the Amaranthaceae. As everyone should know, participants with introductory chapter submission assignments will be due *December 31<sup>st</sup>*.

### **Other Business:**

Stevens Heckscher is still processing his digital photo collection. He will make the photos available to FNJP when complete.

### **Remaining 2010 calendar year meeting:**

- The general meetings to in the Chrysler Herbarium: October 2nd, 2010 @ **10 AM**
- Herbarium Work Dates: *New Dates will be scheduled after the field season, during the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.

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