

Minutes of the ChicoryLane Foundation Directors meeting 10/04/2025

Present: John Smith, Catherine Smith, Jim Zubler, Loanne Snavelly, Dana Reed (directors); Jim Pierce, Ian Smith, Bill Rathfon (public attendees)

Absent: Suzy Yetter, Thom Rippon

The directors convened at 9:06am in the barn at ChicoryLane in chilly morning fog with promise to become a warm, sunny day. Catherine told the group about director Suzy Yetter's sad loss of her aunt in a fire earlier in the morning. A moment of silence for Suzy and her family followed.

In executive session, two motions were made, discussed, and unanimously adopted. By a motion proposed by John Smith, Jim Pierce was elected as director with a one-year term beginning July 1 with his service to begin immediately. By a motion proposed by Jim Zubler, Lauren Smith's contract for communication and event support was renewed for 2026 with an increase in pay as well as a \$1000 additional pay for additional hours in 2025.

The regular meeting came to order at 9:38 am. Bill Rathfon, Ian Smith, and Jim Pierce joined at that time. Ian brought along a large, healthy, potted, acorn-sprouted tree (tentatively identified as a Northern red oak) that he is donating to ChicoryLane. (*Details below*).

Minutes for the June 07, 2025 directors meeting were approved without change or addition.

John announced:

- the 2025 Community Conservation Award to the Smiths for ChicoryLane by ClearWater Conservancy
- the completion of a new culvert/bridge in ChicoryLane's entry lane, and
- the exceptional beauty of the purple, blue, and white asters this year.

Loanne, reporting as co-chair of the Activities Committee, proposed changing the pattern of ChicoryLane activities in 2026 to a symposium over the weekend of May 14-16. This would be a change from the pattern in 2025 of holding multiple, part-day events during spring, summer, and fall. Advantages of making the change to a compact, concentrated symposium are efficiency, in-depth mission-based education, and opportunities for coordination with regional conservation organizations. The symposium in May would not preclude offering a few other public events in 2026 such as a woodcock walk or an insect walk. The motion was seconded, discussed, and unanimously approved. Tentative plans for the 2026 symposium include an evening keynote speaker (Douglas Tallamy) and related sessions the following day. Directors were asked to join in planning for the symposium.

Doug, reporting as treasurer, gave a brief financial report. John elaborated, answered questions, and proposed a budget for 2026 addressing anticipated expenditures including a \$10,000 increment for the symposium. The report was accepted.

During time for public comments, Ian advocated giving directors more specifics on ChicoryLane's annual budgeting and expenditures as well as a list of professional service providers. Bill Rathfon jokingly offered to help spend money.

The meeting adjourned at @ 10:30. During a break between the regular meeting and a following retreat, John invited those interested to join him in the Kubota for a tour of the asters exhuberance this fall. Jim Zubler, Jim Pierce, and Ian went along.

The tree's story: Later John and Catherine learned the oak's life story. Ian's Aaronburg neighbor Bob Martin's started it from an acorn, then another neighbor Ryan Greeley grew it for several years before giving it to Ian for intended planting in his and Lauren's Aaronburg yard. After caring for it still-potted for more years, Ian decided it belonged at ChicoryLane. He symbolically associated the oak with ChicoryLane Foundation and liked the idea of their growing together. Until planting, it waits in James Lesher's nursery of other donated (by Interfaith Power and Light) and propagated (by James) tree seedlings behind the barn. To be continued.

Minutes by Catherine F. Smith, secretary