

Minutes of ChicoryLane Foundation (CLF) Directors Winter Meeting Feb 5, 2026

By Catherine Smith, secretary

Present: John Smith, Catherine Smith, Jim Pierce, Jim Zubler, Loanne Snavelly, Suzy Yetter, Thom Rippon, Dana Reed (directors); Adam Smith (consultant); Lauren Smith, Ian Smith (visitors)

The meeting agenda with attached documents was distributed in advance by email.

7 pm John convened the zoom meeting. Minutes of the 10/7/25 directors' retreat and meeting were unanimously approved. In the President's report, John summarized CLF highlights of 2025, drawing attention to the December Newsletter 'Year in Review' and the ChicoryLane vision statement (agenda attachments). Jim Zubler, Treasurer, reported income and expenses by observing that "things are flowing in and out nicely." Agreeing with that observation, John drew attention to the balance sheet showing the CLF endowment's current satisfactory condition (agenda attachments).

7:15 pm Activities co-chairs Loanne Snavelly and Suzy Yetter summarized 2025 activities as prelude to opening discussion of 2026 activities, primarily the May 15-17 symposium. Vigorous discussion ranged over symposium registrations, logistics, needs for volunteers, and communications, particularly for Saturday and Sunday events located at ChicoryLane Reserve. Happy to see that early registrations are rapidly filling some events, the directors, consultant, and visitors productively raised 'what if' issues for further planning and made valuable suggestions. As examples:

- Loanne and Thom advocated seeking volunteer assistance by Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, PA Native Plant Society; Suzy added ClearWater Conservancy
- Jim Pierce, volunteer coordinator, expressed confidence that sufficient volunteers will be available; others agreed.
- Ian raised logistical issues of site access and onsite parking; Thom agreed.
- John suggested a group management technique for heavily-registered Saturday events, the 'Latin square.'
- Jim Zubler advocated referencing CLF's history in the introduction to the keynote on Friday.

Issues and suggestions will be forwarded to the Activities Committee for its next meeting on 2/12/26.

Loanne asked about the full schedule of 2026 CLF events. Catherine replied that the schedule includes the symposium, two migratory bird walks (May 16 during the symposium and September 14), and an open day after the bird walk on September 14.

Ian commended the following CLF achievements to date: successful events; Foundation 'solidification'; outstanding communications, especially newsletters, and robust registration for symposium events indicating 'goal met.'

Directors requested a special board meeting for updates on symposium planning. **The special meeting is tentatively scheduled for 4/9/26 at 7 pm.** Reminders will be sent in late March.

8:15 pm Meeting ended

The next regularly scheduled directors' meeting is June 4, 2026 (in person) at ChicoryLane, time tbd.