

**Chairperson Report**  
**2/7/2025**

**IRS Status**

- Told: IRS up to June 13 1023 submissions
  - Might result in March
- Currently working with accountants on 990-PF tax filing
  - Told: For an Operating Foundation, all expenses regarded by IRS as charitable
  - Anticipate greatly simplified accounting

**Communications Contract**

- Has now been completed
- Lauren Smith will continue to produce newsletters (approximately monthly) and electronic announcements for activities
- Will also provide coordination and support for scheduled activities, as needed up to 10 hours per activity

**2025 Activities**

- Activities Committee (Suzy and Loanne) met electronically with Catherine, John, Larn and Ian to discuss both potential activities for this year and ideas for 2026.
- Tentative plans for this year will be discussed, below
- As well as thoughts for 2026

**Conditional Use Application**

- As a strategy for making the ChicoryLane barn more usable as a facility for Foundation activities, John and Catherine are applying to Gregg Township for a Conditional Use, specifically Indoor and Outdoor Recreation.
- This specified category of use within an agricultural zone will permit a section of the barn to be winterized and used for small assembly and meeting space, and small office pertaining to maintenance and operation of the property.
- An additional section of the barn would be modified for seasonal use for larger assemblies, such as lectures/talks, exhibits pertaining to the Foundation 's missions, etc.
- Our application is on track for a meeting of the Gregg Township Planning Committee on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:30 PM.
- Attendance by several Board members would be welcomed.

## **Dexter Road Project**

- Met with local Amish farmer to consider facilitating an ecological improvement project on ~4-5 acres of his 100+ acre farm
- This wet strip of land running down the middle of his project is currently almost entirely Reed Canary Grass, includes only some 12 plant species (of which 5-6 are invasives) compared to some 75 native plant species in a comparable riparian areas at Chicory Lane.
- The project will apply different ecological improvement methods as both a demonstration and a test of their applicability to other sites.
- Steps so far include;
  - Coordination with landowner
  - Mapping and photographing of a 2-acre segment
  - Compiling a species list
  - Initial removal of large, invasive shrubs
  - Working with US Fish and Wildlife to plan mowing of existing grass and (2) sprayings of Canary Grass
- Estimated Foundation resources for 2025 that might be provided expected to total \$500-\$1,000.
- A rare opportunity to work cooperatively on a joint project with strong Amish interest and participation

## **Executive Session**

- Consider the nomination of an additional Board member