

***In attendance:***

Forest Hilyer  
Patty Rogers  
Jack Rogers  
Elvin Hilyer  
Kelly Bonner  
Basil Bonner  
Ginger Clark  
Susan Billings  
Bob Billings  
Bob Quigley  
Cera Osicka  
Kyle Jones  
Kristen Jordan  
Sarah Stevens  
Judy Toppins  
Tim Herrins  
Melanie Mulovany  
Mary McClendon  
Brian Sorohan  
Larry Winslet

***Upcoming Election:***

Susan Billings is chairing the nominating committee. We will have elections at the next meeting. The terms do run for one year. The bylaws state that the elections should be run in the newspaper two weeks prior to the meeting.

***Platt Program & Hemlock Helpline:***

Forest gave a brief overview of the original Platt Program. Two issues are at hand: chemical license to participate in this project and the possible conflict of interest with the Hemlock Helpline being attached to a personal phone line. Discussion ensued about taking a more consultive role in the Platt Program, donating the injectors to another group who is doing the same job. Bob Quigley asked about the benefits of the program. Forest explained that the program brought about \$7000 which allows the Coalition to further the treatment of other Hemlocks and the funding of the helpline. Bob Billings voiced his support for the change of the phone number to a Lumpkin Coalition-owned number and that our financial services should help with the national forest and public lands. Judy Toppins agreed that we should define our role as a group who is helping fund helping Hemlocks on public lands and refer private land owners to a list of businesses who can aid them. Brian Sorohan voiced his agreement. Jack Rogers was concerned that we would lose some valuable educational opportunities when we discontinue mailings and the individual consultation. Forest shared that the resources for the chemicals are listed on our website. The program will be continued in the sense of consultation.

\*LC continues the program. The group decided to donate one injector to *Save Georgia's Hemlocks*. One injector will be donated to the Forestry Commission, and one injector will be kept with the LC.

\*LC forms a Platt-a-Pod to discuss how to use funds.

\*LC seeks to purchase a phone and a line.

Ginger Clark made a motion to the above three points. Bob Billing seconded the motion. Support was unanimous.

***Publicity & Public Relations:***

*Ideas on improvement:*

Newspaper articles

Mailings

Radio interviews

Letters to the Editor

Festivals

Weekend tickets to all publicizers (radio, newspapers)

***NGCSU Beetle Lab Opening***

Research overview and the new NGCSU Beetle Lab opening on the 02/26-27/10

There will be a photo op for LC/NGCSU Beetle Lab at 2:00. (\$9000 donation from LC.)

***Budget:***

\$5000 needed for coverage for the Hemlockfest.

Appalachian Outfitters has offered to organize a canoe race for Greek organizations.

\$500 donation from Sierra Club.

\$1500 donation from Parsonson's Foundation.

***In Conclusion:***

Forest Hilyer asked members to consider other projects in Lumpkin County.

\*Water monitoring interest addressed

\*AT Fund interest in being the gateway community