

Post Rock Limestone Coalition
Minutes of Meeting in Hays– January 29, 2020
By Terry Bailey

The bi-monthly meeting of the Post Rock Limestone Coalition was held January 29, 2020 at the Hays Convention and Visitors Center in Hays. Fourteen members were present. Melissa Dixon of the Visitors Center was the local host.

Andy Stanton called the meeting of the general membership to order at 10:00 am. Each person present introduced him or herself to the group.

The minutes of the last meeting in Osborne were read and approved.

The pressing need for an executive director was discussed. Everyone believes that while a lot of organizational activities can be done without a director, the real nuts and bolts issues of organization needs the leadership of an executive director.

Everyone was in agreement that the job description must be finalized so that search can be conducted to generate applicants for the job.

Three plans for the marketing of Post Rock Limestone were presented. The goal is to select a business to help in promoting the goals of our organization.

Andy Stanton of Grey Goat Marketing in Hays was first to address the group. The second presenter was Jenny Russell from Jen Rus Marketing in Courtland. The third and final presentation was from Moto Vikes in Topeka.

The vision of a Post Rock Limestone visitor's center was discussed. Everyone agreed that the concept was commendable, however there were countless questions. What would it look like? Where would it be located? What would it contain? These and many other questions would need resolved.

Our group has been asked to partner with the Lovegrass Music Festival at Lake Wilson this summer.

Rosslyn Schultz is continuing to apply for any and all grants that are related to the goals of our group. She said that some of her applications are successful and others are not. She asked that if anyone is aware of a grant in their part of Post Rock Country please inform her.

The Boot Hill Casino in Dodge City is making a grant opportunity available through the Moriah Fund. Rosslyn and Andy believe we have a good chance with the application.

The possibility of partnering with Wildlife and Parks to create a traveling Post Rock exhibit was positively considered.

Efforts were made to finalize terms, conditions and benefits of membership in the organization. Most in attendance supported creating a category called Foundation Member for folks who join early. These people would pay \$25 and will receive a Post Rock window cling to proclaim their support of the organization.

It was commonly agreed that some people will join our organization because of their love for Post Rock Limestone. Many, however when asked to pay \$10 or \$25 to join our organization will ask, "What is in it for me? What do I get for my money?" No solid answer was forthcoming.

Jeannie Stramel announced that Lucas was planning a street festival this summer. They are planning a wide variety of fun and educational kickoff activities. People from the Kansas Humanities organization will be present discussing the importance of public discourse. A tour of old post rock quarries is being considered with a map old quarries provided.

It was announced that the official rock of Kansas is Greenhorn Limestone. However the brochure about this locates this rock formation in the Flint Hills.

Brad Penka told the group about an article in the Wild West Magazine that discussed Post Rock Limestone in a very positive fashion.

Looking back on the past year, 12 months ago there was no organization or members. All that existed was Jeannie Stramel and Rosslyn Schultz. Now look at us!

The meeting was adjourned for the lunch break.

At 1:30 Brad Penka called the Post Rock Limestone Coalition Board of Directors meeting to order. There was a quorum.

The minutes of the meeting in Osborne were read and approved.

Jeannie Stramel gave the treasurers report. She said she is keeping the old accounts and the new accounts separate but it is a challenge at times.

For Old Business the job description for the executive director was tweaked one last time. Qualifications and expectations were clarified and a performance evaluation was added. A motion was made to accept the job description as amended. The motion passed. The group agreed that now the position description was finalized, we should move forward with all due haste to find a director.

The concept of creating a Post Rock Limestone visitors center was discussed. A motion was made to pursue the creation of a visitor' center. The motion passed.

Roslyn brought the group up to speed on grants applied for, grants received and grants not approved. Folks extended their thanks to Rosslyn for managing a very difficult task.

A traveling exhibit regarding Post Rock Limestone was discussed. The details of such a project will need some thought.

Under New Business notice was taken of the vacancy on the Board from Osborne. Members were encouraged to solicit interested people to apply.

A partial list of local activities held during the summer in which a Post Rock Limestone exhibit could be displayed was generated: Adams Apple, Garden of Eden Festival, Mitchell County Fair, Ellsworth Cow Town Days, Wilson Czech Festival, Courtland Fun Days, Wild West Days, Barbed Wire Festival, Mankato Threshing Bee, Kansas State Fair, Dodge City Days, and the Millapalooza in Beloit. Partnering with other organizations to help us participate in some of these festivals was seen as high priority.

Work on securing a summer intern sponsored by the Dane Hansen Foundation is progressing. This is a program where college students between their junior and senior years may work in rural communities. They work from May 20th until August 1st with a usual work week of 40 hours. The Hansen Foundation provides funds to pay the intern \$20 per hour and the local agency provides housing for the summer. We have received five applications for this position, two are from K-State and 3 are from Fort Hays. Interviews will be conducted in the near future.

The Board established the third Wednesday of every other month as the official meeting day of the organization. A general meeting will be conducted at 10:00 on the day of the meeting and a Board of Directors meeting will be held at 1:30 pm. Any interested party is welcome to attend either or both meetings.

The next meeting will take place on March 18. The location is yet to be determined.