

KAA September 10, 2010 business meeting summary

- 1) The remaining Observatory work items to be tackled on Saturday September 18th starting at 8:30am and working to noon are:
 - a. Remove wood debris to the dump.
 - b. Finish clean up of wood chips.
 - c. Install stone at bases of roof support posts. Jim to procure stones.
 - d. Repair mower carburetor with new parts.
 - e. Mow observatory field.
 - f. Clean observatory.
 - g. Remove saplings along west side of observatory.
 - h. Fix loose focuser knob on 12 ½" telescope for now, but investigate buying and installing a 2" eye piece and new mounting plate for 12 ½" telescope. Should order eye piece first and then match mounting plate to it.
 - i. Stain and poly hand rail.
 - j. Junie will fabricate and install new roof retainer brackets ASAP.
 - k. Put a small bucket of sand for steps in November, inside of entrance door.
 - l. The square steel telescope pier will remain, but a yet determined protective material or device will be installed ASAP.
 - m. Check into removing wallboard from inside of observatory and replacing it with plywood. Jim to look into taking the wallboard to the dump some Saturday morning.
- 2) The Observatory work items completed at the July work session are as follows:
 - a. Filled driveway potholes with dirt from pile at south end of observatory and removed remaining problem stones.
 - b. Removed the two white cement-viewing piers and a huge stone adjacent to the piers.
- 3) Phil's plaque is in the observatory and will be installed ASAP.
- 4) Keith has sent out letters indicating the services KAA can provide to the Keene Public Library, Peterborough Library, & Brattleboro-Brooks public Library. The next scheduled event will be an observing session at the Brattleboro Brooks Library Thursday September 23rd at 7:30pm with a rain date on Wednesday Sept. 29th at 7:30pm.
- 5) The Six Dobsonian telescope bases and side supports are in Junie's possession. Some assembly issues, per Junie, have arisen on the prototype. Until they are corrected the date for assembling all of the bases is on hold.
- 6) At the October meeting details will have to be formulated on how to track loaned telescopes, amount of telescope deposit, length of loan, how many eyepieces to be included per telescope. We also need to discuss how to assess any telescope damages and costs back to borrowers. Phinie issued a paper on "How to Borrow Equipment", but apparently there are other papers on the subject that will be submitted at the October meeting that will be added final loan evaluation process.

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- 7) Contact new tenants across entrance to observatory and explain who and what we are, and to let them know their welcome to join us at our observing sessions. We need their email and phone number to keep them in the loop. This is to also help with the lights should we do outside the observatory observing.
- 8) Jim Faux will call and reach out to the Dublin School and see how KAA might be able to help them with the new observatory by October meeting.
- 9) At the November meeting we need to discuss the status of the Obsession telescope. It may need a finder scope. Junie to evaluate its optics at the October observing session to determine whether we should purchase a finder scope or not.
- 10) Jim Fox to contact Gail at the Keene Library to start discussions on fall and winter astronomy presentations.
- 11) Jim Fox will call Mike Brooks to see if we can borrow his lawn mower and generator on Sept. 18th.
- 12) Next month will be the election of officers. Anyone interested in any position please attend next months meeting on Friday October 8th at 7pm at KSC in the YSC.
- 13) Dale Moore will conduct a presentation on "GALAXY ZOO" at the October meeting.
- 14) Thanks to Mike Brooks for lending us his tractor and training Jim on how to operate it. Without it we would have never been able to remove the two telescope piers, remove a huge rock next to the piers, and fill in the driveway potholes. With Jim Fox operating the tractor and our labor crew shoveling and raking included Jim and Phinie Faux, George Karabakakis and I we were pleased to have gotten such huge tasks completed.
- 15) KAA wants to re-welcome Sigrid and George back to our club. Within the last couple of years they have adopted an Ethiopian girl, which has taken up much of their free time. They now hope to be able to be more involved with the club.
- 16) Two addendums to our Bylaws were approved and will be incorporated into the existing bylaws and posted on our web site.
- 17) The dues will remain the same as last year. Dues details will be listed on next months meeting minutes.
- 18) KAA is going to generate a member list with phone numbers and email addresses, which will be available to all members. This list will be available by December. Anyone not wanting their name on the list, please let me know ASAP.
- 19) Determine if a ramp for the Obsession telescope is necessary to get it in and out of the observatory when taking it on the road or just breaking it down and reassembling it at the location.

BYLAWS ADDENDUMS

ARTICLE V11 – STUDENT OBSERVING REQUIREMENTS

Section 1 – Student observing:

- A. Two non-student club members must be present before any student member or non-member can attend an observing session at the Sullivan Observatory. Student refers to any one attending High School or College.

ARTICLE V111 – ISSUEING OF AN OBSERVATORY KEY

Section 1 – Observatory key issuing:

- A. The issuing of an observatory key to a club member requires the approval of both the President and Secretary. To be eligible for a key requires a minimum of three successful openings by the candidate, witnessed by a key holding member. With one additional opening witnessed by either the President or Secretary. Keys not to be distributed to students.