

KAA June 21, 2013 business meeting summary

On-going Business

- 1) The business items that need to be specifically addressed at the July 5th meeting at Sullivan are:
2 - c, e, f, h and 4, 6 thru 9 and all of the new business items.
- 2) **The Observatory work session is scheduled for July 14th from 9am to noon. The work to be tackled will be determined at the July 5th business meeting.**
 - a. Apply Chreocoat on base plates and roof support members.
 - b. Install stone at bases of roof support posts. Jim to procure stones.
 - c. Finish removing saplings along west side of observatory. **75% Completed.**
 - d. Junie will fabricate and install new roof retainer brackets when he can.
 - e. Procure and install new 1/8" cables for opening and closing the observatory roof. (Fall 2013)
 - f. Replace portions of existing roll off roof deteriorating wood beams. (Fall 2013)
 - g. Scrape and paint outside of observatory. On hold pending obtaining new siding.
 - h. Mow field
- 3) 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. **Brackets need to be fabricated (by Junie when time permits) to hold 6" telescope tubes on 1/2" bases plates.**
- 4) The Obsession telescope issue: **The primary mirror was moved 3/16" closer to the secondary mirror to improve clarity under high magnification. The optics were tested and found the image came in focus under high magnification where it had not before, but under high magnification the image was vibrating considerably. The vibration may be caused by the floor, which will be tested in July by setting the telescope up outside on the ground. If that doesn't stop the vibrating then the problem is internal to the telescope.**
- 5) It was determined that the Observatory siding should be up graded to vinyl. Our only option seems to be to purchase new siding because our other possible options have evaporated. This is not an eminent problem. It will need to be done in stages do to the \$750 cost.
 - One side per year – minimize cost
 - Vinyl side the square walls of the observatory only; scrape/prime/paint the A-of-the-roof.
- 6) Jim Faux to contact Jonathan Weis at Dublin to see how things are going with their telescope and the astronomy program.
- 7) Gail is interested in KAA doing more outreach observing and teaching for the Library. **Bob will be doing a "hands-on" loaner telescope training and providing the basics of finding objects in the sky using sky charts Tuesday June 25 th at 6:30pm at KPL.**
- 8) Junie suggested that we look into purchasing a hydrogen-alpha solar telescope with the anticipation of doing public solar observing. This would allow us to view solar eruptions as well as sun spot activity. Used HA telescopes at this time anyway seem to not be available and a new one would be cost prohibited at \$700, so other avenues will be investigated.
- 9) Bob suggested looking into having baseball caps, T-shirts. Sweatshirts, and etc. made by a company called Café Press with KAA's logo on the items. **Everyone seemed to agree that we stick with our present logo, if possible. Bob also found a supplier of these items in Brattleboro. Bob will decide which supplier to use and purchase a hat and T-shirt for review within the next couple of months.**

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Completed Items

- 1) It was determined that the Observatory siding should be up graded to vinyl. Bob's check with ReNew shows they have no vinyl siding available and don't expect any, any time soon. Bruce indicated that the money has dried with the sources he was investigating. Reference item 5 above for further details
- 2) NSN Toolkits:
 - 1) Junie has review all tool kits and will let the two science teachers he works with, Kim Lewis and Lisa Rust know what's available in them. Both these teachers will be reviewing the video also to determine their usability in their curriculums. As it turned out for the 2012-2013 school year anyway they were not able to incorporate them into their curriculum.
 - 2) Bob has submitted videos to two science teachers for review. Junie and I are waiting for feedback from these teachers. As it turned out for the 2012-2013 school year anyway they were not able to incorporate them into their curriculum.
 - 3) The tool kits vary in their usage some are more designed for a science school curriculum and some are designed for handouts at astronomy events. We will be pursuing both these possibilities.
- 3) Gail is interested in KAA doing more outreach observing and teaching for the Library. Bob will be doing a "hands-on" loaner telescope training and providing the basics of finding objects in the sky using sky charts Tuesday May 21 st at 6:30pm at the KPL. This went very well with five adults and six children in attendance.
- 4) Jim Faux suggested that we come up with an outline/summary/white paper of the components in the tool kits so we can submit it to prospective users. Jim and Phinie have taken the responsibility of housing and managing all of the tool kits. Jim/Phinie has generated a completed list of all the items in the tool kits and he will retain the original and the receiver of the material will get a copy of the material list for their return item verification.
- 5) Jim Faux to look into purchasing a video projector eyepiece to tie into a computer or TV, which he did. What he found was the Starshoot camera 2 with a USB eyepiece from Orion was only good for viewing the moon and planets and required 120v power. Therefore, it did not meet our requirement for some deep space viewing and has been abandoned for now.

New Business

- 1) The Observatory taxes have been paid to the Town of Sullivan.
- 2) Bob to check with Gail on setting up an event for viewing the anticipated comet "Ison" at Ashuelot Park in November.