



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Troop 146

St. Francis Church
308 Jefferson Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030
www.troop146.org

May 9, 2017

To: Members and Friends of Boy Scout Troop 146

Here is a summary of the Troop Committee meeting that took place this evening in the HOPES/Rue School Conference Room. The next meeting and Board of Review will take place in the HOPES/Rue School on June 6, 2017.

1. Present

Marie Luizzi (presiding)	Ken Nilsen
Al Greenwood	Dan Weaver
Joe Facchini	Norman Kasser

Also: Life Scouts Jason Davidoff, Jacob Grossbard, and Aaron Kurland

2. Eagle Scout Status Report for Jacob Grossbard

Jacob's Eagle project will be to supervise a team of Scouts as they canvass the tenants of Columbian Towers at 76 Bloomfield Street with three goals in mind: One goal is to ensure that each senior will be prepared for an event like Hurricane Sandy. A second goal is to ensure that each tenant has a good container for water and a good flashlight so that they don't try to rely on candles (fire hazard). A third goal is to list which tenants have special needs, such as an oxygen tank or a wheelchair, and might need assistance if they have to leave the building. The list will be turned over to the Hoboken OEM (Office of Emergency Management) and to the Hoboken CERT team (Community Emergency Response Team). As for dates, Jacob proposed May 23 to brief the Scouts about the project, with a CERT team member possibly assisting. The actual project is scheduled for Tuesday June 13, and would take place instead of a Scout meeting.

Jacob already has one signed approval, which was from the building manager, but he still needs three more signatures before the project can actually begin. Norman explained that we are still waiting for Jacob to find out how many apartment units are in the building, how many tenants, and to write a letter to Home Depot asking them to donate flashlights and batteries. Jacob must also try to get the names of the tenants, since OEM and CERT will need that information. This evening Jacob provided the unit count as 136, but he had made no progress on the others. About getting tenant names, Norman suggested that, if management is hesitant, Jacob should propose that the list of names be provided instead to OEM or CERT and that the list of names might be converted into a list of initials for Scout use. Ken said that a good repository of tenant names might be Google Docs under password protection.

Jacob must complete all the remaining requirements for Eagle Scout by August 10, 2017. He needs six more merit badges:

1. Cooking: Dan said that Jacob is done pending one last check about the requirement to cook for his family.
2. Citizenship in the Nation: Norman said Jacob is about two thirds complete.
3. Emergency Preparedness: Jacob said that he needs to take three photos to complete the badge with merit badge counselor David Plotka.
4. Citizenship in the Community: Jacob has notes at home but has not yet started with Lenny as counselor.

5. Communication: Jacob has notes at home but has not yet started with Norman as counselor.
6. Sustainability: Jacob has notes at home but has not yet started with Dan as counselor.

3. Eagle Scout Status Report for Jason Davidoff

Jason completed his written Eagle project proposal and has already gotten three of the four approval signatures needed. He said that he had just recently e-mailed his paperwork to District Advancement Committee member Fred Creswick, with the twin expectations that Creswick will ask for corrections but will also provide that fourth signature prior to Friday, when Jason expects to run a bake sale fundraiser at the PATH station. In response to Norman's question about "Why cut it so close?" Jason explained that third signer Keith Jackson recently had his work schedule at the Shelter changed, making it very hard to find a suitable meeting time. In the end, Jason's dad Jon Davidoff was able to meet with Jackson during yesterday's lunch hour and get the third signature.

The actual project will take place on June 3, where Jason will supervise Scouts working at the Hoboken Homeless Shelter to scrub down and organize the church balcony storage space they use for donated food and toiletries. He will also provide mouse-proof containers for stored food, with money coming from the above bake sale. Prior to the project, Jason would like to lead a before-tour of the balcony so everyone can see for themselves the scope of the project. Jason said that Jackson had approved the tour at pretty much any time, and that Jason could access the area by using a staircase in the Shelter. Ken said that the church front door is usually open in the evening "for people going in and out." Norman guessed that May 23 would be the best date.

Jason's last required merit badge is Personal Fitness. The outdoor component is done, but he needs to schedule make-up sessions in order to complete the indoor component, which was missed when Jason signed up to work with his school's Robotics Club. Jason will turn 18 in July 2018.

4. Eagle Scout Status Report for Aaron Kurland

Aaron recalled a prior Eagle project suggestion where he would organize a 5K run as a fundraiser. However he is not a runner, and said he would rather do a project more in line with "something I feel strongly about." Aaron mentioned a pet shelter in Jersey City and said that he will contact them this week to see if they need anything. Knowing that Lenny will prefer a project in Hoboken, Aaron said he had also contacted Leo Pellegrini to ask about local dog runs. Al Greenwood raised the Hoboken "Bark in the Park" event as another possibility where Scouts might get involved. Norman guessed that "Bark in the Park" would not need any help organizing, but they might be happy to have some other kind of assistance, such as cleaning up afterwards.

Aaron needs five more Eagle-required merit badges: Citizenship in the Community, Communication, Emergency Prep, First Aid, and Personal Management. Aaron will turn 18 in April 2018.

5. Eagle Scout Status Report for Henry Plotka

Henry phoned in sick this evening. He has not yet discussed with the Committee any plans for an Eagle project, but Ken said that possibilities exist at the local YMCA. Henry needs three more Eagle-required merit badges: Camping, Lifesaving or Emergency Prep, and Environmental Science or Sustainability. He will turn 18 in August 2019.

6. Whitewater Rafting Camping Trip (Apr 21-23)

Nine Scouts attended: Charlie Greenwood, Anthony Hawk, Andrew Lopez, Tom Morgan, Jack Nilsen, Zack Scheiman, Aidan Ward, Gabriel Weaver, and Ethan Zhang, with Ethan as the acting SPL. Also going rafting were adults Al Greenwood, Gretchen Scheiman, Colum Ward, and Nai Zhang. Non-rafting adults were our hosts Lenny and Marie, plus

adults Bob, Peter Lopez, and Bernard Morgan. "Hosts" means that tents were set up in Lenny's and Marie's vacation home back yard. Lenny also led the convoy to the Whitewater Challengers base office.

The river water was quite cold and mandated rental of wet suits. The weather was also quite cold with nighttime temperatures close to freezing. Norman said it was the coldest April camping trip the troop had ever experienced. Marie told Dan that Gabriel was very helpful to her personally during the weekend.

- 7. Upcoming Camping Trip to Gettysburg (May 19-21)**
We will tour the battlefield in a chartered bus along with a professional tour guide. Scouts will camp in a nearby commercial campground. Scouts and adults sign up first-come-first-served with a limit of 19 based on seats in the tour bus. By way of preparation, Scouts were downstairs watching a movie about the battle while this meeting was in progress on the second floor. The following Tuesday (May 16) we will have a guest lecturer that Lenny arranged for.
- 8. Upcoming Memorial Day Parade (May 24)**
Lenny made it clear that he expects a good turnout of Scouts. Last year was quite good with Boy Scouts outnumbering Cubs for the first time. We were also honored by being placed at the very front, just behind the Vets.
- 9. June Court of Honor Delayed by a Week (June 13 changed to June 20)**
We gave up the HOPES gym on June 13 to a graduation ceremony. Rather than try to squeeze everyone into the 2nd floor conference room, we will run the June Court of Honor in the gym on June 20. Lenny intends to make several presentations to various members of the community who have supported the troop over the years. The postponement opens up June 13 as an opportunity for Jacob to run his Eagle project (see above).
- 10. Three New Youth Leadership Positions**
Ethan Zhang is the new Troop Scribe, taking over from Gabriel Weaver. Zack Scheiman and Nick Facchini are both new Den Chiefs, working with Cub Packs 18 and 146, respectively. Note that Zack also worked as a staff member during the recent Cub Scout Weboree weekend along with Liam Richardson. They both worked as Trail Guides all day Saturday, and also manned the "Neckerchief Slide Making" station during the Weboree Midway sessions.
- 11. Tom Morgan Advancing Quickly**
During a special Board of Review convened on April 26, Tom reached the rank of Star Scout. He also recently completed four merit badges: Chemistry, Fingerprinting, Citizenship in the World, and Emergency Preparedness. The first two took place at the Liberty Science Center. The last two were summer camp "partials" that Tom finished up here in Hoboken.
- 12. Two New Candidates for the Order of the Arrow**
During last week's election, Aaron Kurland and Tom Morgan were elected as Order of the Arrow candidates. They must attend an "Induction Weekend" in order to officially become OA members. The OA is the Boy Scout honor society, dedicated to service and other ideals.
- 13. Spring Fling Service Project (Post Earth Day Apr 29)**
This project was organized by the Hoboken Shadetree Commission. Attending were Xavier Aniello, Tom Morgan, Henry Plotka, Will Sytsma, Aidan Ward, and Gabriel Weaver. Dan said that there was actually not a lot of work to do, since there was not a lot of litter to be picked up. He said, "They were done early."

14. A New Scout

Norman said that Zack Schieman had recruited school buddy Ryan Womack and that Ryan had turned in all the paperwork to become official. Ryan will join Zack in the Sasquatch Squad Patrol.

15. Scout Summer Camp

18 Scouts plan to attend, 11 in early July, and 7 more in August, after summer school higher achievement programs have ended. Another camp week is available, where we partner with Weehawken Troop 223. Bob and Julian Spilatro will attend as adults, and Henry Plotka will attend as a youth. Ken said that the August week worked very well for his family. Norman said that August was a "one-off, this year only," but wondered aloud if we should continue to offer August as an option in future years. Earlier this evening, Bob told Scouts to expect a phone call from him later in the month, where he will ask for tent bunking preferences. Note that three adults also plan to come for a week: Matt Groo, Dave Sytsma, and Dan Weaver.

Scouts were notified that the online merit badge sign-up website was recently enabled, and Dan said that Gabriel had already made selections and was reviewing the camp's prerequisite document.

16. The Troop Committee has a New Treasurer

Assistant Scoutmaster Terrence Richardson agreed last month to take over from Mike Evers as the Troop Treasurer.

17. A Troop Trailer for Storing Gear

After a review of finances (see below), Dan reminded everyone about a future expense that we have so far postponed. He recalled researching how much the troop might pay to buy a trailer that would be parked and locked in the St. Francis back lot and would contain all the troop gear currently stored in Bob's garage in North Bergen. Dan said he had also consulted with other Scout troops about insurance considerations. Marie reminded everyone that we will also need permission from Father Chris.

18. Finances

Prior Scout balance: \$1534.15

Current Scout balance: \$907.74

Money came in from troop dues.

Money came in as a prize for winning the Window Display Competition.

Money went out to reimburse Norman for Adam's Eagle ceremony.

Money went out to reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

Money went out to stop a lost check.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 2nd qtr expenses.

Prior Cub balance: \$3316.83

Current Cub balance: \$1729.52

Money went out to reimburse Norman for 1st qtr expenses.

Money went out to pay for the Blue-and-Gold banquet.

Money went out to subsidize the February sleepover at Liberty Science Center.

Expected expense: Reimburse Norman for 2nd qtr expenses.

For the Committee,



Norman Kasser
Scoutmaster