



PIP Meeting Minutes November 19, 2010

Attendees: Eileen Sullivan, Sunanda Sahay, Rheta Roeber, Bernie Kosicki, Janice Ward, Susan Krikorian, Ellen Hickey, Mary Ann Smith

Acton Naturalist Guide Eileen Sullivan gave us an Acton Nature Guide update which is sponsored by the Acton Schools, the Town of Acton and AB PIP. There are five species on the front cover with a PIP logo in white on green, and a PIP logo in color on back. Panels cover insects, pond life, birds, mammals, butterflies, and trees. A map of the conservation areas, done in Adobe Illustrator with diagrams, is linked to town websites where diagrams and maps of each area can be found. They had to scrap the invasive species panel because they did not have enough artwork to use. Eileen created the species lists and met with Tom Tidman many times to discuss contents of the Nature Guide. **The Guide can be pre-ordered through PIP up to Dec. 31 for only \$5.00 – check the PIP website for details;** after which they will cost \$5.95. They will be featured at the Dec. 4th Acton Library Holiday Fair (along with Hex bots sold by the AB Robotics team). **Hex bots and Natruralist Guides make great holiday – new year mini gifts ☺.**

AB Robotics Sunanda gave us an update on the Robotics team. Funding from Solidworks and Raytheon has been received and is in the PIP account. Raytheon wants to stay in close touch with the team and will meet with them in March. Mr. Dempsey is not mentoring them any more, so they have more money but less support. The Einstein Science Club is running two Lego Robotics teams, and Prateek is mentoring them. The application for the Robotics qualifying round is due on Dec. 4. A more permanent location (other than Sunanda's basement) and faculty mentor for the Robotics team is an ongoing issue.

Galileoscope Pilot Bernie discussed the Galileo scopes; \$250 will give us 6 more bags. Before we add to the 6 bags we have, Bernie would like to put the Galileo Scopes in classrooms and see how the teachers like them. For 11 more 4th grade classrooms, we need 6 more tripods. Teachers at Merriam are not sending them home. They are looking at the woods and studying optics in the classroom. If bags are sent home, they should contain setup directions in the folder saying a parent must help set up, plus 3-4 simple activities. Bernie will work with teachers to see how they want to use the scopes. ABRHS Worker's Credit Union has generously agreed to help fund the Galileoscope custom logo bags with a donation of \$250 (will feature the WCU and PIP logos) for their biennial Discover STEM donation.

AB PIP Treasurer Report A PIP budget report will be available in January after contributions and receipts net out. Rheta, in her Treasurer's report, said that due to complicated accounting constraints we

are not able to use the \$1000 that Cisco gave the science team for the teacher's stipend. The money is in the PIP account now. We can use it to pay for the science team's travel and other expenses instead.

NH Tech Fest – Inspiration for Discover STEM 2011 Rheta also reported on the annual New Hampshire Tech Fest; as her friend is a teacher at Windham HS in NH, where it was held. She has lots of brochures. There was quite a bit of variety in the presentations. It's set up like a trade show and the whole state participated. Three robotics teams had soccer robots on display. An orthopedic surgeon brought all the pieces they put into you during surgery, and the Windham police had accident reconstruction and measurements. Seven colleges had exhibits, one of which included chemical engineers showing the manufacture of chocolate, with pretzels to dip into the chocolate. The Tech Museum showed the progression of technology, with antique items like a vacuum tube (they asked the kids, what's this?) or an old computer. There were also Segway rides, an indoor telescope, electric cars outside, and a laser light show in the auditorium. Rheta suggested that the Acton Cable TV network should attend PIP's STEM Fest in November, 2011.

PIP STEM Leadership & Service Awards John was not available to discuss PIP STEM leadership and service awards presented by AB PIP annually to Acton Boxborough Student Seniors in the fall so students could include on their early college applications (goal of *October 15th*) (Janice created beautiful recognition certificates.). The award criteria include a review of ongoing AB PIP service and leadership spanning grades 9 to 12 (back to grade 7 to 8 where available) as documented on the PIP student volunteer service spreadsheets for major PIP activities events including: Market Math, Star Party, Discover STEM, AB Robotics, Family Game Night, Green Energy Fairs, etc.

AB PIP STEM Book Club – How to Think Like Leonardo DaVinci – Feb 5, 2011 – The Discovery Museums - ***Copies available to borrow through PIP – email actonpip@yahoo.com*** PIP purchased several copies - Karen has books to lend, Janice will create and post a Book Club flyer on the PIP website, Eileen will announce to teachers in the District, Janice will create a splash page on the web site with a flyer and Susan will help with publicity and Michele S. will help coordinate books for PIP Book Club borrowing and access at Acton Memorial Library in early/mid January.

Family Math Game Night is our next activity is on January 19th, 2011 5pm to 8pm at the Sargent Library in Boxborough. JoAnn, Murali, and Ellen are helping, with Mary Ann also volunteering. Consider helping with 5th Grade Market Math

PIP Planning 2011 and Beyond The final 2010-11 AB PIP Calendar Brochure is available on the AB PIP website www.actonpip.org/pdf/2011pipbrochure.pdf (special thanks to PIP webmaster Janice Ward). AB PIP elementary school tours are planned for 1st quarter 2011 along with an evening AB PIP Re-visioning session. Stay tuned!

Thanks to AB PIP Steering Committee Members, school, community, parent and student volunteers for contributing to PIP community STEM activities!

Our next meeting will be held on Friday, January 21, 2010, at 9-10 am, location TBA.

Happy Holidays from AB PIP!