

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace State Park Board Meeting on April 6, 2013

Attendance:

Board members Sue Breen, Bill Breen, Sheena Perry (president), Greg Perry, Mary Soderberg, Donna Weiser, Brett Weiser, Andre Weltman (vice-president), and Park Manager Jason Zimmerman.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance \$11,108.18. Our gratitude to treasurer Bill for his meticulous care of our funds and associated record-keeping, a critical function.

Discussion of tax calculation methodology for non-clothing sales items.

Firewood sales money is starting to come in as weather improves.

Park Manager's Report:

Earth Day on April 20, 9 AM-Noon (plus walking tour 1 PM).

Please sign up so we know how many people might join us for the lunch provided by the Friends (via DCNR "calendar of events" at www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/pinegrovefurnace and click Events tab then Earth Day listing; or volunteers website <https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us>). Activities will include painting and landscaping, and continued removal of invasive plants; focus this year (100th Anniversary of Park) will be historical areas.

At 1 PM, join the "Historic Walking Tour Grand Opening" – a new walking tour brochure will be introduced with a group walk (led by Tara Gettig the Park Environmental Specialist, along with Andre Weltman in historical reenactor garb).

For this and other activities, see www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/pinegrovefurnace

Volunteer Day on April 27

Statewide cleanup activities by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Areas of work at Pine Grove Furnace will include the brushy triangle just west of the Ironmaster's Mansion.

Recycling Bins: grant from Keep America Beautiful and Dr. Pepper/Snapple Group

Thanks to Cooke Township, we became aware of a possible funding source for additional recycling containers. Jason applied for 6 bins via a "Public Park Recycling Grant Program" – the application period closes near the end of April, so we probably won't learn if application was successful for a few more months.

Bicycle Program at the Park in June

The Park is conducting a special biking program probably in early June for a limited number of people. Jason asked if the Friends would support buying ice cream for the biking group; Board agreed.

Merchandise Update

Park Office sales area with various items (clothing and hats, books, and 100th Anniversary patches, pins and calendars) has been moved to the front near the main desk, and greatly improved. There is a new enclosed glass display case that looks very nice. The museum room in the office is being completely redone with new exhibits, so clothing cannot be displayed there.

Discussion of improved storage shelves in the back room, to facilitate fast identification of various shirt sizes and colors by busy office staff. Bill will look for shelves, perhaps via the Grainger company catalog.

The Board approved a final design and two colors for a special Anniversary T-shirt.

Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau grant update

\$500 was used for an advertisement in the tourist magazine *When and Where*. Other money from the grant is being used to purchase 500 Frisbees printed with our furnace stack logo, our name/website, and CVVB name/website.

Goddard Weekend Events and "Goddard Leadership Legacy Camp"

Special events on May 17 and May 18 will include a movie at the amphitheater and lectures at the Mansion, remembering Maurice Goddard who was a central figure in the development of the modern Pennsylvania State Park system. See the park website "schedule of events" for details.

The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy supported by the South Mountain Partnership is holding a week-long residential "camp" program at the Mansion for 24 high-schoolers, July 14-19. The goal is to develop student knowledge and promote the next generation of leadership in the field of conservation. There is a cost of \$350 per attendee which may be steep for some applicants. (See next item!)

Penn-Cumberland Garden Club

We received an unexpected membership application with \$500 donation from a Harrisburg-area garden club based in Camp Hill. Jason suggested that, in keeping with the spirit of this donation, we consider applying some money to support student applicants to the Goddard Camp, and the rest toward plant purchases for a Mansion landscaping workday scheduled in early May. The Board agreed with this excellent idea. Jason will notify the CPC that the Friends will contribute \$300 to sponsor three students at the Goddard Camp (thus, reducing their fee to \$250) -- the camp program can decide who most needs the support. The remaining \$200 of the garden club donation will be made available to the CPC for landscaping: Andre will make contact with a local cabin owner/Master Gardener who landscapes the AT Museum, to see if she is available to work with the Mansion innkeepers on this. We should send the garden club a letter letting them know how the money is being used.

Memorial Donation Acknowledgements

Discussion of how we handle occasional "in memory of" donations made to the Friends. We need to be sure we send a meaningful reply when such generous gifts are made, and (if possible) say what the money will be used for.

Comments from Andre (vice-president):

Oval Stickers

We now have on hand 2000 “PGF” bumper stickers. These are high-quality white and black oval stickers identifying the State Park and the Friends group, including our website; we originally planned to use CVVB grant money, but CVVB eventually withdrew from supporting this specific item because they perceived too much overlap with their own promotional campaigns. The Board discussed sticker distribution plans. We will offer these promotional items “free” during the 100th Anniversary year, but Andre will make small signs for sales tables and the Park Office display area noting that “Donations to the Friends group to support park activities is much appreciated.” We can discuss direct sale of the stickers for 2014 and beyond, after the 100th Anniversary ends.

Firewood Sales at Campground

General discussion of splitting and bundling to enable us to continue firewood sales at the Park campground, a major source of revenue for the Friends. An enormous amount of splitting has been done by Bill, and is much appreciated. Park staff have also been great in supporting this effort, especially by transporting wood up to the Maintenance shed and transporting bundles over to the campground. Two recent scheduled workdays, plus other efforts by Board members especially Bill and Sue, have now filled the available storage area with roughly half of what we sold last year. We will schedule additional firewood workdays as needed when the current supply of wood bundles are sold.

Comments from Sheena (president):

Iron Run/Charcoal Challenge Race

Sheena continues to work on the 2013 half-marathon and 5K races (June 8, the same day as the annual AT Museum Festival). Various free racing website listings are being updated. We will again be able to get professional-grade timing services from a local gentleman, who will try “chip timing” this year. General discussion of marking tape to guide racers through the woods. Still seeking race sponsors, especially a “title sponsor.” Deadline to get sponsor names on the race T-shirt is approximately three weeks before the event. The T-shirt will include the Friends website and furnace stack logo.

Next Board Meeting:

We had scheduled our next meeting for June 1, but the Board agreed that it makes sense to postpone unless important new business arises. The next scheduled meeting following that was previously set for August 3, after the Iron Run race and before Fall Furnace Fest.