

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace Board Meeting

Minutes for August 16th, 2014

Board in attendance: A. Weltman (president), M. Soderberg (vice-president), B. Breen (treasurer), S. Breen, B. Weiser, D. Weiser, D. Velozo (secretary) and S. Benson (Park Manager and ex-officio Board member) Also present: M. Schmidt (volunteer coordinator)

Treasurer's report

- Our current balance is over \$16,000. A recent expenditure of \$2260 was for the new woodshed to facilitate firewood sales at the campground. (A detailed report is available upon request.)

Park Manager's comments

- Attendance is somewhat higher overall vs. last year, but somewhat less on weekends– visitors to Pine Grove Furnace are increasing during the weekdays. The reason is unclear.
- New method of merchandise sales through the Park Office front desk, using a Friends-only cash lockbox -- so that no park employee handles money from the public -- is still being worked out. This new requirement is driven by policy from the DCNR central office in Harrisburg.

National Public Lands Day, Sept 27th

- Friends will continue to supply grilled lunch to volunteers at this annual event.

Spring volunteer opportunities

- Discussed expanding the usual Spring Cleanup into something longer throughout a weekend, and offering free camping to volunteers. Details and date to be determined by Park Manager.

Firewood sales

- Sales continue to be brisk using the new technique of loose wood sales instead of bundles. The new shed is paying for itself in terms of volunteer time & wear-and-tear by not bundling wood.
- A big *thank you* to Board members, plus especially our supporters Margy and Jeff Schmidt, for participating in a workday to split logs at Fuller parking and stack wood in the campground shed.

Board membership

- Discussed expectation that Board members will attend meetings when they can, and participate in major events if at all possible. President suggested trying to get more people on the Board; he will approach one person in particular about becoming a Board member.

Tracking volunteer hours

- We all need to log onto the DCNR website to enter our many hours volunteering for our park. Properly reporting our time gets money and resources for this park – Harrisburg notices the hours. For major events such as Earth Day, we will continue to enter the group's collective number of hours as a single entry on the website. www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us

Fall Furnace Fest, October 18-19

- Extended discussion of planning for this major event. Volunteers are needed!
- New this year, we will try to hire a shuttle bus for the first day of the festival to carry the public back & forth to Laurel Lake as an overflow parking area. Cost is not trivial, possibly \$500-\$600, but parking is a problem especially on Saturday.
- Thank you to Margy Schmidt for stepping forward again to coordinate volunteers.

NEXT BOARD MEETING is scheduled for November 15th