

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace Board Meeting

Minutes for March 11th, 2017

Board in attendance: A. Weltman (chair), M. Soderberg (vice-chair), B.Breen (treasurer); S.Breen; S. Dodd, R. Shaw, D. Velozo (secretary); M. Kutzmonich (Park Manager, *ex officio*)

● Park Manager's comments

- Bureau of State Parks gave an award to our Friends group ("2016 Group Volunteer award") – note that Mary & Andre represented Friends at Bureau training event in Gettysburg when award was presented
- group campground new bathroom is still under construction
- PENNDOT is supposed to close the Rte 233 bridge in front of park office in September – note that this was later changed to April 2018
- project to widen family campground entrance and make it two-way, funded by Friends, is still pending
- the Eagle Scout project to repair the walkway in front of the AT Museum will start next week
- park is investigating how to obtain bear-proof garbage dumpsters
- an otter has been seen in Laurel Lake

● Chair/Vice-Chair's comments

- cooperation with other park entities: AT Museum website now includes Friends information; they did not realize that our own website has always had AT Museum information
- panel discussion with PPF at PA Recreation & Park Society annual conference, Hershey on March 26
- "Small Games of Chance" is finally on the Cooke Township ballot for Spring elections – note that it did later get approval by township voters; we have a lot of administrative steps before we could hold such games, but we should consider it for the future such as Fall Fest 2018; an invoice for legal fees from the township lawyer will be forwarded to the Friends, as we are the primary beneficiaries of this effort – Board agreed to pay for the township's legal fees
- PPF training for Friends groups on April 8 at Shawnee SP
- PPF holding special events at Hammonds Rocks on April 15
- sponsored table (Mary/Andre) and group donation for PPF annual banquet on May 10
- PPF photo contest is now open for submissions
- Board considered, just for informational purposes, how another group handles their merchandise sales (Friends of Codorus S.P.) with standalone building and help during the summers

● Treasurer's report

- bank balance 58,031 including Metro card

● Merchandise

- our Park Manager feels we need to adjust sales techniques to avoid having park staff involved in any way with cash; Mary will work on a new streamlined sales envelope system
- animal magnets for sale – a new item
- embroidered patch for 2017 – Board reviewed and suggested improvements, Andre to work on it

● Firewood

- splitting/stacking – let's keep at it to get ahead of demand during 2017 season
- Friends shed at Fuller parking for splitter & tools is pending
- Mid-Atlantic Hammock Hangers Assoc – Board agreed to their typical "special request" for April 25

● Membership annual renewal mailing

- mass email and mailing sent; about 10 returned envelopes as No Such Address which is better than 38 last year; about 40 renewal or new memberships mailed to us so far, they are expected to continue to trickle in as we approach summer

- Facebook, website, newsletter, other promotional efforts
 - next newsletter – thanks to Rob for taking the lead
- **Earth Day (April 22) and Mtn Creek Trail**
 - vol tasks will be toward the east end of the park (near Laurel Lake)
 - special public event to be held including invitations to press, for Mtn Creek Trail bridge grand opening
 - trail brochure: final version finally available; Spanish translation pending; plastic holders mounted
 - trail signage needs improvement
- Friends tables
 - annual Adams County Health and Wellness Event May 6 in Gettsburg – Steve and Andre to run a table
- Organized hikes
 - “PA Hiking Week” is May 25 - June 2 (includes weekend after Woodsy Owl); Rob to organize a hike

● **Iron Run** (Saturday, June 10)

- registration open on *RunReg.com*; Board reviewed progress in signups so far
- DCNR paperwork; insurance via PPF; EMS (Yellow Breeches) all being handled
- need more race donations (we already have Title Sponsorship again from Appalachian Run Co.)

● Speciality trail tools

- Board considered whether we should purchase our own tools such as Pulaski axes & McLeod rakes; it turns out we have access via a Board member, and do not necessarily need to borrow from Forestry District (which is sometimes a logistical problem or simply not available due to their own needs); anyhow, no need for Friends to spend money on this as we have a source to borrow other than Forestry

● Possible project for 2018

- grant to fix furnace stack (brickwork at rear, and to west) should be considered, as these portions of the furnace stack are decaying – Andre identified a possible source of funding: the “Louis J. Appell, Jr., Preservation Fund for Central Pennsylvania” and will continue research then present to the Board

Next Board meeting: Sunday May 7th

(meeting to include final planning for Iron Run which is the following month)