

Friends of Pine Grove Furnace Board Meeting

Minutes for August 25, 2018

Board in attendance:

A. Weltman (Chair), M. Soderberg (Vice-Chair), J. Burleigh (Treasurer), R. Shaw; D. Velozo

● Park Manager's comments

- Manager could not attend but shared a few items with Board leadership beforehand

● Chair/Vice-Chair comments

- Additional deck furniture purchases for the Mansion were made using memorial funds.
- Friends group as in the past purchased non-ethanol gas for Maintenance, \$88.
- Bureau of Forestry "resource management plan" for Michaux S.F. draft is available online, and they are soliciting public comments through end of September.
- A reporter at the *Carlisle Sentinel* wrote a nice article about local parks including Friends groups.
- Idea, pending approval from Manager: additional corkboard for front of General Store. Not expected to be expensive. [Board approved the idea; preliminary research suggests cost will be < \$100.]
- Manager continues working with DCNR Regional re: administrative issues to install a new hiking bridge (hopefully a suspension style) to connect Koppenhaver Trail to western trailhead of Mountain Creek Trail. Progress is made, slowly. DCNR will handle all permits. A meeting on-site was held with a possible local contractor. We are now waiting for a proposal and specific plans from contractor. At best, including time to get funding, we might install a bridge in late 2019 or start of 2020.
- "EZ Dock" kayak system at Laurel Lake was purchased as described in prior meeting. We are now awaiting installation by Maintenance, delayed by weather-related competing priorities.
- South Mountain Partnership's fall outreach/partner meeting will be Sept 27 @ Kings Gap.
- New 10'x10' pop-up tent served us well in heavy rain that arrived at the end of the 125th Anniversary hike, which was well attended despite the poor forecast. Thanks to PPF for bringing a cake.
- Thermal laminator (previously approved) was purchased; it saves Friends leadership time & money.
- Vice-Chair described the ways that Friends of Laurel Hill conduct sales. Each group is different!
- Our park's EE continues to offer popular camping programming. Friends support this public activity with money, and thanks to Josh for contributing so much volunteer time. We now receive part of the small fee that attendees pay for food.
- CVVB blog: our Chair contributed material for this special request. Several blog items were posted.

● Treasurer

- Balance a little over \$79,000 [full report is available upon request]. Treasurer noted that we took in \$1000 for firewood sales just in the first half of August. Although our balance is high right now, and more income is expected as usual including from Fall Fest, several big projects are pending and in our budget estimates.

● Budget

- No updates – a significant fraction of our balance is earmarked for pending projects including a rough estimate for a hiking bridge, also campground exit/entrance work discussed in previous meetings.

● National Public Lands Day 2018

- Our park will celebrate on Sept. 29th, as will most of DCNR (though the typical date = fourth Saturday in September is actually the 22nd).
- As usual we will support the potluck lunch with grilled items.
- After the vol lunch, a special arrangement was made by DCNR for musician Van Wagner to play at the Stack Pavilion including his folk songs about early Pennsylvania industry. Friends are not paying for this extra event added to the day. All are welcome to listen for free.

- “Walk in Penn’s Woods” 2018
 - As in 2017, parks are again invited by DCNR and hiking advocates to hold special guided hikes on Sunday October 7. We will host a hike again, led by Rob Shaw. Route to be determined.
- Iron Run 2019
 - Brief discussion on holding our fundraiser half-marathon & 5k once again. Board agreed to do so. This discussion needed now even though event is not for 10 months, so Chair can reserve the timer.
- Trails
 - Not many volunteers have showed up for focused trail work days.
 - Nonetheless, with special separate efforts by Chair and by Board member Rob in particular, park trails are in good shape; effort to clear invasives & small trees from the 1934 Girl Scout pool is completed.
- Merchandise
 - Pre-printed envelopes for public sales use in the park office continue to work well. We will need to order before the end of the year.
 - We will get inexpensive LED flashlights to sell, esp. at Fall Fest before Hairy Hand. Small items like this are attractive to people with only a couple dollars to spend.
 - Chair and Vice-Chair explained the “Coast to Coast collecting America’s story” promotional website and associated sales items (postcard and coaster with local photos) – see www.c2sites.us. We would be able to sell these small items for \$1 and \$2, again representing attractive memento purchases by visitors having only a few dollars. (Some won’t even spend \$5 on our embroidered patch series!) Board discussed and voted to move forward. Chair will select some photos and discuss further with Coast to Coast, after Fall Fest ends. PA listing with a dozen sites, including PGF, will occur in 2019.
 - Merchandise manager Donna has proposed changing our vendor for some clothing items to a local company that also handles our race shirts. There are advantages to using a local company for example by reducing shipping costs, and facilitation of correcting mistakes, even if cost is not quite as cheap as items from half way across the country or the globe. We will use Moore Graphics in Mechanicsburg when appropriate if pricing is reasonable vs. current remote vendors.
- Social Media and other advertising/branding
 - Time for another Friends newsletter
 - Thanks to our Vice-Chair for taking the lead for our active page, assisted by Chair and by park EE
- Fall Furnace Fest planning
 - Board discussed a special planning meeting, incl. outside partners, Sept 29 after NPLD/Van Wagner.
 - As always, more clothing donations are needed for the busy scarecrow-making activity.
 - MC announcer during the day will not be used for 2018. Many people couldn’t hear announcements.
 - Hairy Hand audio discussed. We will probably end up using a live actor not the recording, but it’s not determined yet. We expect that a volunteer with sound board who helped last year, will attend again. Chair has also investigated re-recording the old audio track, but folks with experience suggested that a new recording won’t help with biggest issues: poor loudspeaker placement, and echoes off the lake.
- Firewood
 - Due to dwindling supplies of split dry wood at Fuller parking, we will buy a couple cords already split from a commercial vendor which will be delivered straight to the campground sales shed. We still make some money this way, but of course much less than when logs are “free” and labor donated.
 - A volunteer has offered to chainsaw remaining logs at Fuller parking so we can split for sales in 2019.

Major Events Remaining in 2018

National Public Lands Day, Saturday September 29
Fall Furnace Fest, weekend of October 20-21

Next Board Meeting in November, date TBA