

# Friends of Seneca Creek State Park

## Board Meeting Minutes from February 5, 2014

### Call to order at 7:00 pm

Attendees- Earl Pfeiffer, Dave Powell, Bonnie Bell, Dave Scull, Bruce Goldensohn, Ellen Erdelsky, Steve Hackman, and Ken Grundy.

Absent- Agatha DeJonge

The November 2nd meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

### Treasurer's Report – Steve Hackman

See report. The \$184.00 of administrative costs were stamps.

We purchased pets on leashes signs for \$492.00, Steve got a great deal on 40 signs. The rest of the park purchase money spent was for the port-a-potties.

We received an \$89.00 donation from Darlene, Ed's daughter, in honor of Ed Branges' 89th birthday.

We also received a \$500.00 donation from the Montgomery County Road Runners. \$12.50 was received from the United Way from our anonymous donor.

Steve acquired 3 bids on different types of mules for the Grant from SHA. Kendall Mott liked the Kawasaki best so Steve then got 3 bids on that mule and he has sent those to Naomi Manders. Naomi should be forwarding them to the state and as soon as we hear that we are good to go from Al Califano, we will purchase the mule. The best price is \$12565.00 which includes a trailer that costs \$990.00.

### Membership Report- Ellen Erdelsky

See report.

Ellen has already done one purge of our database of old members that we have not heard from since prior to 2006. She is going to send a letter to the group of people that we haven't heard from between 2007 and 2009 and then purge those that we do not hear from.

There was some discussion about if there should be a mention in our letters about an occasional newsletter being sent out and we agreed that we would send something out this year. It was not stated when we would send something out, but most of us agreed it should be before the summer season starts.

There was another brief talk about changing our membership renewal date to once a year at the same time for all members. Ellen said that she liked it the way we do it now, it was not voted on but there seemed to be majority agreement to keep it the way it is.

### Management Report- Dave Powell

Right now there are 2 rangers at Jones State Park for ranger school.

The assistant park manager position was opened and is now closed and there should be interviews for the qualified candidates. Dave Powell will be on the interview panel.

The annual Volunteer Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, March 8th. It will be a little different this year, in addition to breakfast and awards, there will a kick off of the season with sign-ups for volunteer events.

Seneca Creek will again be participating in Park Quest and their activity will have to do with photography. Photographs should be related to the park with an emphasis on why we preserve natural resources.

Pertaining to Savage Joint Venture, Buddy Flints old leased property, Dave is trying to lease it again. He is currently in negotiations with a non-profit group that helps wounded warriors.

The managed hunt went well but only 28 deer were harvested this year.

There is a new digital state program run by the Maryland Park Service that Dave has to use to hire all seasonal employees.

There will be work done on an extension of the Seneca Bluffs Trail. The Trail Conservancy and MORE are working to get approval for a trail on the northern end of the Patuxent River area. The middle of that park is a Wildlands Designated Area and no biking is allowed in that area.

The CJC, Civilian Job Corp, is coming back again this summer and that brings workers and money for projects to the park.

Dave has a seasonal at the office to replace Donna and she starts tomorrow. The permanent position may open up in July.

Montgomery County owns the property where Poole's Store is and is currently putting money into it to open the store again in some capacity.

The Friends of the Seneca Stone Cutting Mill are meeting in a few weeks. The group is trying to decide in what way to move forward. In January, the mill was vandalized and Dave is trying to find out the best way to try to clean it up.

The first Saturday in April is the Potomac and Patuxent River clean-ups.

There was a discussion about the houses that the park owns, specifically the one on River Road near Riley's Lock.

### Purchase Requests

The desk that we approved for purchase has not been bought yet because Dave has not found one that he likes.

We have also approved the stickers to elaborate the information on some existing signs and they should be purchased soon.

We discussed some picture frames for the visitor center of the park again, but Dave is not ready for this purchase yet.

Dave asked us to purchase a digital video projector. There was a short discussion on what it would do and the quality of the product. A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase for up to \$750.00 maximum. It was approved unanimously.

### Roundtable- Everyone

Bonnie apologized for not looking into a sign for the Friends to display at the Winter Lights and she will look into it for next year. Bonnie also noted that we should have a booth at the Volunteer Breakfast and most agreed and stated that they would be attending that event anyway.

There was a brief discussion about our web site and what is on the calendar on the web site. Steve tries to put everything that is on the park calendar on our calendar.

Dave Powell mentioned that he is working on a digital trail reporting system so that people can report good and bad trail conditions instantly.

Steve Hackman noted that there is a great new volunteer bulletin board up in the vestibule. Steve also mentioned that he needs some ideas and new pictures for the web site

Earl is thinking about re-painting the blazes on the part of the Greenway Trail that he maintains when it gets warmer. He also plans on working on the peony garden again this year and is need of a new helper since the one who helped him last year has moved.

Bruce received an e-mail from Dave Powell with a link to the web site for the Friends of Maryland State Parks and Bruce is going to look into joining them. Bruce is currently a member of the Board on the Governor's Commission on Service and Volunteerism.

Ken said that he would talk to Bonnie about getting out a newsletter as soon as possible. We also talked about upcoming events that we could have a booth to promote the Friends. The next big event that may be worthwhile is a disc golf tournament on April 26th and 27th.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7th at 7:00 pm.

#### Addendum

Dave Powell contacted Ken about getting approval for a purchase of some t-shirts. He asked for 72 t-shirts for about \$500.00. The purchase was approved by the board with 5 yeas votes. Steve was able to purchase the 72 t-shirts for \$477.71.