

January 7, 2013 FHSP Minutes

The January meeting was held in Haubstadt, IN at the Haubstadt gym where 13 people were present.

Minutes for November meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report for January was read and approved. Ending balance was \$6,286.32.

Eddie read Harmonie Park report. The playground near the river needs the holes drilled and rebar driven into the ground for the boarders. Hoping to have a workday in the spring to accomplish this in addition to other projects. Tree cookie shelter has been submitted to state for approval. Only a few changes were suggested such as a gravel base instead of concrete and walkway from pavement needed. Clark State Forest may have timbers for this project.

The stage built by the FHSP is complete. Improvements to the stage, such as lights, fire pits and a sound system were discussed as possible projects to be completed this year. We did not have enough members present to vote on this expenditure, so it will be voted on at the next meeting. *(Per our by-laws, this announcement allows the approval of this expenditure at the next meeting with a majority vote.)* The Friends group would like to have our spring meeting at the stage with a ribbon cutting ceremony and possibly have news media present.

Marilyn talked about grant requests that will be sent to Posey County Community Foundation (Posey CCF grant and Women's Fund of Posey County), 5/3rd bank and Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation for the "Wild About Nature" Adventure Camp headed by Amelia Wildeman and Rose Overton. Pam Robinson has volunteered to write grants for FHSP. We cannot thank her enough for this. Grants can bring in a lot of money for FHSP. There will be a "free" grant writing class at the Alexandrian Library. Date to be announced later.

Members of FHSP also discussed other projects that will be completed this year. A two-day adventure camp will be given in June and July for students leaving the fifth, sixth and seventh grades and also a Kiddie pool shelter for the baby pool.

Tim and Nancy Caldwell will be "Geocaching" more items in Harmonie State Park this year. Geocaching is a free real-world outdoor treasure hunt. Players try to locate hidden containers, called Geocaching, using smart phones or GPS and can then share their experiences online. They have done this in the past and have gotten a lot of good feedback. Find out more about this upcoming event on our Web site — www.friendsofharmonie.org.

We have received the \$100.00 and up plaque from Tri-State Trophy and it looks great. Expressway Dealership in Mt. Vernon paid for the plaque. We will have it on hand at the stage dedication and will later be installed in the Nature Center.

Friends of Harmonie State Park has been given 40 gallons of unshelled pecans!! If you are interested in helping to make some money for our organization, we will be having a Pecan Shelling Party at Rick & Sherri Allen's home. It will be this Friday, January 18, 2013 from 9:00 to noon -- Bring your own nutcracker. Their address is 1306 Mockingbird Ln, Mt Vernon IN. If anyone is interested in taking some to shell on their own please email Sherry at R.allen01@insightbb.com or call 568-0678. We will then freeze them or sell by the quart!! This will be a fun and profitable fundraiser. Please consider giving us a hand.

The next meeting will be in March in New Harmony.

Addition to the minutes:

Here is a note regarding the equine trails at Harmonie State Park.

This year our plans for the equine trails will be to do a re-route at ravine #3 on the south trail section of trails. The re-route is do to excessive and growing erosion at the ravine.

In addition we plan to add more trail signage on the north trail section along with a tie rail for horses.

We will be asking the Park to locate a park bench near the new tie rail.

For long term planning we will be asking the Park this year to seek funding through a RTP Grant to connect the North and South trails.

Jerry Fruth

VP Hoosier Back Country Horsemen