

November 29th 2011 Friends of Harmonie State Park (FHSP) Minutes

The November meeting was held in New Harmony at the Atheneum where 16 people were present.

Minutes for October meeting were read and approved. One correction was that the Chili Cook-off is a fundraiser for New Harmony only.

Treasurer's report for November was read and approved. Ending balance was \$2252.33.

A brief background discussion was held to get the entire group up to speed about "why" the friends group started and our goals.

Writing grants was discussed with Linda Warrum. She said she would be glad to help anyone who would be willing to write grants, but could not write them herself due to conflicts of interest with her position on Parks Board in New Harmony. She explained that not only should the grant writer go after large corporations, but will need to seek out other sources as well, such as Angel Mounds, Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation, etc. Linda said to always look for Philanthropy or Funding at the top of the Web page to see if they do grants. Several grants need to be written for the same project to get needed funds. A project budget will be needed before grants can be submitted. The number of bids needed may be determined by the dollar amount of the project.

Ed shared with everyone how very detailed the 30 odd page Federal non-profit status is. The questions are about proper use of funds. All board members need to be sure the rules for disbursing funds – it must be within the guidelines spelled out in our bylaws. The Federal non-profit status procedure is what will cost FHSP around \$400.00.

Shannon Hoehn brought new Tri-folds (revised membership applications / advertising brochures for FHSP) to the meeting for everyone to view. MeLissa Williams said the trifolds could be displayed at the Atheneum for visitors to take. Amelia agreed to have them available in the Nature Center as well.

Jim Gray was asked what projects he would like to see completed by the FHSP. Jim stated a new boat ramp and new heating/air handler for the present Nature Center could be added to other projects already discussed by the group.

The largest black oak in Indiana that is on the Indiana register was toppled by a storm and three 8 to 10 inch cross sections of the oak tree have been stored in one of the storage sheds. Jim said that FHSP could take on the project of finishing the section so it could be displayed by the Nature Center. This may not be something that could be finished right away as the section would need to dry before finishing. Shannon Hoehn will check with someone at USI on how to preserve it.

Ed asked the group what short term project FHSP should accomplish first. The stage at the Amphitheater was agreed on. Vicki Campbell made a motion to build the stage and it was seconded by Denny Hargett. The members then voted and agreed this would be our first project. After further discussion, the motion was put on hold pending the planning of the stage by Jim Gray and park personnel. Jim will have a plan for the stage by the next meeting. At this time someone from FHSP will get bids on the job to determine cost. We will need volunteers to help with this project.

Jim Gray will get bids on a Heating and Air handling systems for the present Nature Center. This will benefit the animals during the winter months as well as human comfort in the summer months. It was suggested looking at used units to save money. Insulation of the ceiling of the Nature Center would also have to be done before any Heating and Air installation. If and When a new Nature Center is built, the old Nature Center could become a place for our meetings or turned back into a camp store. The addition of a screened-in shelter house near the Nature Center was talked about as a long term project.

One of Jim Gray's priorities will be the completion of the borders and mulch for the playgrounds. He agreed to have these completed by May 1st.

JC Egli discussed having a bluebird trail somewhere at Harmonie State Park. Jim Gray was okay with having the bluebird trail but someone other than park personnel would need to maintain the houses. Amelia said that having a blue bird trail is a lot of work and the boxes need to be checked at least three times a year. Making bluebird boxes could be a money making project since the boxes could have a plaque put on them with the name of the person making it, a family member or as a memorial to someone. A member of the National American Bluebird Society (NABS) could give us more needed information. Denny Hargett would like to be on the Bluebird trail committee. It was suggested someone from the Bluebird Society give a talk at one of our meetings early next year.

JC also talked to John Harris about a corn hole tournament recently held at Hog & Sauce. He said it was a rainy day and the profits were not as good as they had hoped. JC has John's phone number and said John would be glad to assist us if and when the group decides to hold a corn hole tournament as a fund raiser.

The Mountain Bike Trail members are going to have a rally on June 16th. This would be a good time for FHSP to have a booth there to sell refreshments. We need volunteers to help with this project. If interested, please call Fred @ 985-3572.

Amelia Wildeman, Laura Market and Shannon Hoehn volunteered to be on the Communications Committee. They will put out information on FHSP and also inform local newspapers and other on-line publications of our meetings. Shannon Hoehn will work on grant writing. Everyone thanked them for volunteering.

JC has asked to be replaced as Vice President because the organization is now established. Would someone volunteer for this position? The position needs to be filled in 90 days per our by-laws. The position of Vice President is relatively easy but needs to be filled. We cannot proceed with the friends group if not filled. Please think hard about volunteering for this position. We need you.

The next FHSP meeting will be held on January 9, 2012 @ Red Bank Library at 6:00PM. Please plan on attending.