

Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens

Board Meeting – November 16, 2012

Attending: Mike Bertram, David Ross, Kent Waggoner, Mike Walz, Henry Whitesel

Action Items

Next Board Meeting: January 11, 2013, 4-6 at Henry's house

October 6, 2013 -- date of Fall Hike

We will follow up on our request from last meeting for assistance in strengthening board governance (ideally in time for next meeting). Henry will check for email communications from Marci since last meeting; David will follow up with.

Mike Bertram will post the hike and plant monitoring coordinator job descriptions and archive of past annual reports.

Henry will draft this year's annual report

Kent will contact Molly Anderson to coordinate timing of next year's planning meeting with landowners.

David and Henry will schedule a meeting with Jay Gregg to discuss our partnership at Nottingham Park.

Henry will coordinate with Molly to discuss our Chrome concerns with Elk Township

Mike Bertram will draft planning document to circulate for January planning meeting

Kent will edit PPF descriptions for chair, vice chair, secretary and media outreach coordinator.

Henry will give Rose Chase copies of our job descriptions and plans to schedule a walk with her to discuss progress in our care of the Barrens.

Mike Bertram will contact Brittany at PPF to explore ways of enhancing the flexibility of our Web site.

Meeting Notes

Reviewed and Approved October 4 minutes.

We acknowledged our appreciation for partnership with Goat Hill Hunt and Fish Club, which leases TNC land for hunting rights from mid September through January.

Steven Winner, President
Lowell Hirsh and son Chris

We expressed appreciation to Henry for his work with workday volunteers – clear notices of upcoming dates and emailed notes of appreciation afterwards.

We will follow up on our request from last meeting for assistance in strengthening board governance (ideally in time for next meeting). Henry will check for email communications from Marci since last meeting; David will follow up with.

We reviewed the list of volunteer needs from last meeting and discussed the need to go slowly in filling positions – need for clear job descriptions and an ability to affirm and support those who fill them.

We reviewed, edited and approved Mike Bertram's draft volunteer descriptions for Hike and Plant Monitoring coordinators. He will post to Website along with past years' annual reports.

We brainstormed ideas for connecting with folks who could provide expertise and on-going support in monitoring our plant communities. Local colleges, Longwood Gardens and other organizations are possibilities. Henry will share our coordinator description with David Royer and Anna Hull. David will contact Doug Tallamy at University of Delaware.

Henry to draft this year's annual report
Molly Anderson intends to organize a planning meeting with our landowner stakeholders (the first in two years) for late January or February.

TNC—PA
TNC – Maryland
DCNR-- Goat Hill
New Texas – Hannum Family
Nottingham County Park
Elk Township -- Chrome

Before meeting we need to

- Check out status of upper sector at New Texas
- Consult with Elk to address continued ATV use. Might we try placing a camera to identify trespassers?

- Consult with Jay Gregg about workday responsibilities at Nottingham Park

Mike Bertram will draft planning document to circulate for the planning meeting

Henry and Mike Walz have passed their sawyer safety training with Rick Deppen of DCNR. We look forward to more training opportunities with DCNR and TNC.

Next step in filling organization vacancies is approving job descriptions for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Kent agreed to edit PPF descriptions for these and media outreach coordinator for our next Board meeting to approve.

We tabled considering recommendation to add landowners as (non-voting?) members of the board pending our work on board governance.

Rose Chase has asked how she might best respond when acquaintances ask how they can help the Barrens. Having specific job descriptions to hand will help her respond.

Set date for hike in the fall -- October 6, 2013. Hope to have a hike coordinator by then. Mike Bertram will serve as mentor; if necessary, lead hike. We talked about inviting Representative John Lawrence; Sierra Club; AMC to this or other hikes.

Mike alerted us to certain limitations on his ability to customize our Website. For example, there is no easy way to store documents for downloading. We appreciate having free use of the site. He will discuss possible solutions with Brittany at PPF.

Agreed on Friday January 11, 2013 for next meeting.

Thanked Henry for his hospitality.