

**Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens
Board Meeting – May 31, 2013**

Attending: Anna Hull, David Ross, Henry Whitesel, Bob Gray, Mike Waltz, Rose Chase, Kent Wagner by phone (610) 608-9669

Action Items

We set Friday, July 12, 4-6 for our next Board meeting, place TBD.

Henry to set up meeting with Joe Frassetta (and Anna and Bob?) for Wednesday, June 5:

- Review AmeriCorps workplan for Goat Hill
- Request copy of the electronic versions of the Rose Trail brochure

Henry will contact Wilson King to 1) confirm that he will have created expanded parking area at Lower Chrome for Deloitte on June 7 and 2) to accept his offer to bush hog outer trail section at Upper Chrome East to avoid boggy terrain; arrange a time for Wilson to meet with **Kent** on Friday morning.

Kent will mark the route we'd like Wilson King to bush hog during his visit to Chrome on Thursday. **Anna** will try to coordinate with Kent. He will also walk Lower Chrome to prepare for AmeriCorps tasks in August.

Kent will contact Molly to confirm the text of property boundary signs to be mailed to Henry with current phone numbers for Elk and TNC.

Henry will call Bob Barker to ask if he'd be willing to provide additional blazes for the Upper Chrome trails.

Bob will pursue setting up a TNC GIS conference call:

- Request a GPS device for AmeriCorps to use at Goat Hill.
- Make sure we have trail map graphic (merging the relevant GIS layers) for AmeriCorps to put into Chrome Brochure.

Henry will contact Pal to ask 1) that "workers ahead" signs be placed north and south of work area on Barrens Road and 2) that Township pick up the bags after 3pm on the 7th.

Anna will circulate draft workday volunteer recruiting sheet.

Anna will draft language for Henry to use in declining to pursue Ron Notvest's proposal to eliminate adult pitch pines near the meadows at Goat Hill.

David will provide Rose with our website address for her to use with friends and contacts interesting in volunteering.

David will revise the restoration and maintenance activity leader descriptions for Mike Bertram to post.

David will draft revised officer descriptions to reflect today's discussion.

Agenda Items

AmeriCorps Preparation

Henry, Anna and Bob briefed Trish Hannum (New Texas), Jay Gregg (Nottingham Park), Pal Duburow (Chrome). Henry is to confirm meeting with Joe Frassetta for Wednesday June 5.

Pal is retiring from Elk Board of Supervisors in December; wants to get trails in shape; Township will help with funding for trails. Would like to include in our brochure the Elk Township trail on newly acquired open space, Upper Chrome – West.

AmeriCorps tasks for Chrome:

Blazes and directional signs for trails on Upper Chrome East.

Build bridge at Lower Chrome.

Create brochure showing all trails.

Clear Serpentine meadows in northeast section of Upper Chrome East (as time allows).

Anna, Kent and Henry have made progress in identifying necessary rerouting of the two Upper Chrome East trails.

Henry will contact Wilson King to accept his offer to bush hog a new section of the outer trail along the northern edge of property shifted to avoid the boggy terrain.

Creating adequate clearance for horse riders will be added to list of AmeriCorps Tasks

Kent will be up Thursday to check the Deloitte site – can spend some time looking at Upper Chrome East.

Kent will mark the route we'd like Wilson King to bush hog during his visit to Chrome on Thursday. Anna will try to coordinate with Kent. He will also walk Lower Chrome to prepare for AmeriCorps tasks in August.

Joe Frassetta arranged for DCNR to produce the Rose Trail Brochure at Goat Hill. Henry will request the original electronic copy for AmeriCorps to use in

creating a similar brochure for Chrome. Our thought is that they (rainy day activity) can use the same template, and just paste in text from our Website and TNC trail map.

Kent will follow up on the property boundary signs with Molly.

Henry will call Bob Barker to ask if he'd be willing to provide additional blazes for the Upper Chrome trails. We would prefer the 2x6 blazes for the Laurel Trail.

Molly has agreed to purchase a walk-behind bush hog in time for AmeriCorps to use at New Texas.

Deloitte

We gather at 9am, June 7, at the Media Mennonite Church (corner of Media Road where 5th St. becomes Barren Rd.) for breakfast; pizza lunch.

Kent and David will lead the roadside cleanup effort Friday morning (followed by pine wrenching in Upper Chrome West). David is picking up vests, gloves and bags from PennDot. Henry will contact Pal to ask 1) that "workers ahead" signs be placed north and south of work area on Barrens Road and 2) that Township pick up the bags after 3pm on the 7th.

Proposal for Restraining Pitch Pine Incursions

Our primary maintenance activities are driven by eradicating invasive species. This challenge is exacerbated by adult specimens of these species bordering our maintenance areas. Henry relayed a proposal by Ron Notvest to eliminate pitch pines within 100 yards of the serpentine meadows at Goat Hill where we have been clearing pitch pine saplings.

We asked Henry to convey to Ron our appreciation for his suggestion, but that we don't want to take on this task at this time. The organization has a number of higher priority restoration, maintenance and organization-building tasks on the agenda at this time. Anna will draft language for Henry to use.

Board Governance and Organizational Structure

Recruiting volunteers

Rose highlighted the need for us to have an easy way to respond when someone, hearing about our efforts in the Barrens, asks "How can I help?"

Especially if the AmeriCorps project goes through, we anticipate a major public outreach campaign in the fall. We want to make it easy for volunteers to get involved.

Our next step is creating a ready-to-post and hand-out single sheet of paper that explains who we are, describes and lists workday opportunities, and provides contact information. (A business card with key contact information may follow.) Anna is drafting the sheet based on information on the website and Mike Waltz's workday volunteer handout and will circulate.

In the meantime, David will provide Rose with our website address for her to use with friends and contacts interesting in volunteering.

Job Descriptions

We agreed to split the workday coordinator position along the lines Mike Bertram suggested into a restoration activity leader and maintenance activity leader. Henry agreed to take on both positions for the coming year with the hope that we can find someone to fill the maintenance activity position before the year is out. David will add writing up work day reports and volunteer follow up to the draft descriptions.

Bob pointed out that initially the same individuals are likely to fill multiple volunteer slots. Having clear job descriptions will facilitate harnessing new volunteers to fill them.

Our needed tasks have both functional (e.g., site monitoring, trail extension planning) and geographic (site-specific) dimensions. We'd likely want to identify different individuals (who live nearby or have a particular connection) to monitor our different sites.

Officers

We reviewed the results of our March individual board member personal assessments, noting that a willingness to volunteer during workdays has been an important responsibility of board members. Contrary to the experience of most organization boards, fund raising has not been an important element.

We agreed that we have no need for a Treasurer, since our finances are handled by PPF.

David suggested eliminating the expectation that the chairman would have residual responsibility for governance – i.e., would be expected to deal with all unanticipated task not previously allocated to a volunteer. This wouldn't preclude the Board from allowing the chairman to act on its behalf.

David agreed to continue as secretary for the coming year. We agreed to give the secretary position the “nag” function he has been modeling (a function typically carried by the chair).

Preserving and Sharing the History of the Barrens

Oxford Library received Rose’s collection of clippings, articles and other historical material related to the Barrens.

In addition to our regular work sites, she noted that the Wood Farm (across the Octorara from Goat Hill) contained a major chromite quarry.

If Anna’s grant is funded, it would include an outreach component that would involved partnering a colleague in the humanities with the Library to work on and exhibit or display.