

**Friends of the State Line Serpentine Barrens
Board Meeting – January 15, 2017**

Attending: Chris Hoess, Tracy Raymond, David Ross & Henry Whitesel at 2pm at Henry's house

A) Key Dates

1. Our next board meeting

Sunday, February 19 at Nottingham County Park

Conference Dial-in number: (716) 748-0224 (potential toll call)

Host Access Code: 445962*

Participant Access Code: 445962#

2. Hikes, Talks, Work Days and Other Commitments

Tentative dates are to be moved to our Dropbox calendar as we pin them down

B) Action Items Going Forward

All

Tabled Agenda Items

Arrange transfer of BoF Gator to TNC shed

Molly Anderson

Mike Bertram:

Point person for our history initiatives and web master

Bob Gray:

Post June 25 Lower Chrome workday report

Point person for strategic planning initiatives.

Chris Hoess:

Will confirm NCP office availability for February 19 board meeting.

Will check with a contact at Longwood about potential engagement in Barrens.

Will contact Molly

Ask her to lead March 3 workday at Upper Chrome to flag stones for mowing and survey needs

Indicate that Chris and Tracy will complete Youth Safety Qualifications process for outreach events

Confirm the Board's willingness to proceed with limited scope landowner's meeting and agree on potential dates.

Complete TNC Youth Safety Background Check consent forms and send to Molly (by January 23)

Will identify by January 22 gaps in the data needed to complete the annual report and will contact board members as needed.

Will arrange with Andy to complete the Goat Hill bridge repair, ensuring that at least three people are on hand for the work.

Will convene the data management committee (Tracy and Bill) with goal of reporting at February Board meeting. Preliminary Agenda includes:

Web page and server proposal

Organizing Dropbox folders

Capturing Henry files

Point person for science and education initiatives.

Tracy Raymond

Complete TNC Youth Safety Background Check consent forms and send to Molly (by January 23)

Convene a meeting of Outreach and Fundraising Committee (including Jennifer Pavao, Marian Quinn and Chris) before the February Board meeting

Will write up and post to Dropbox 2016 event reports by end of December for PPF annual report

Will research walkie/talkie options to present at next Board meeting.

David Ross:

Point person for administrative initiatives.

Kent Wagner:

Point person for recreational uses and trail planning initiatives.

Henry Whitesel:

Will contact members of the restoration committee (Kent, Mike, David) for a meeting/conference call -- tentative date/time: Jan. 29 2-4

Will contact Hannums about Feb. 25 workday and permission to mow in March.

Will obtain from Molly a list of attenders at the last stakeholders meeting, then circulate to the Board the partners he proposes to invite to a limited scope partners meeting this year.

Henry will contact Pal Durborow to obtain contact information for Chris Fowler

Henry will ask Ila for her source at Longwood and circulate to Board

Workday reports for Sunday, October 23, New Texas and December 4 at Goat Hill; will give David workday waivers forms.

Will circulate date and time of meeting with Wilson King in hopes that at least one other Board member can attend.

Point person for conservation/maintenance planning

C) Items Considered

Welcome and Agenda

Chris began the meeting promptly at 2pm. We approved the circulated agenda with the addition of stakeholders meeting under Business

Chris reported that John Coberly regretfully declined our invitation to join the board because of the press of other commitments.

We thanked and congratulated Tracy for her organization of our Dropbox folders

Next Meeting Date

Sunday, February 19 at Nottingham County Park
Chris to confirm with Jay

Activities

- Proposed restoration schedule/Restoration Committee Report

Henry will convene a meeting/conference call of the restoration committee (Kent, Mike, David) -
- tentative date/time: Jan. 29 2-4

Henry circulated a list of proposed dates

Our list of volunteers to mow open sites at Barrens

Jim Herr for Goat Hill

Bob Foulkes -- Lower Chrome

Chris Fowler -- Upper Chrome

Charlie Fleischman -- New Texas (if Hannums agree and Charlie is available -- David as contact_)

Board affirmed mid-April (depending conditions) as the cutoff for mowing

Ila Barlow reports that Longwood Gardens is interested in some sort of engagement with the Serpentine Barrens

Henry will ask Ila for her source at Longwood and circulate to Board

Chris will check with a contact at Longwood

Tasks for Restoration Committee

Henry will arrange stumping dates (to prepare for mowing) at Goat Hill in January and early February -- including flagging stones

Proposed Friday March 3 to flag rocks protected plants at Upper Chrome; survey Upper Chrome for needs; Chris will ask Molly to lead (Henry will ask Kent if Molly declines)

Henry will confirm with Hannums February 25 workday at clearing KK at New Texas; and willingness to allow mowing in March -- Henry agreed to be workday leader

Confirm mowing dates at Chrome and Goat Hill

David agreed to lead April 28 workday at NCP; consider an additional date to clear greenbriar around trees in mowed areas by Doe trial

Need to plane around Henry's likely departure sometime between June 1 and April 2018

- Proposed outreach schedule

Work with Carey Bressler (Oxford Public Library) to schedule a Serpentine panel discussion for February or March

Schedule a Spring ephemerals hike at NCP for April 15 or 22

TNC Items

- Youth Safety

Board agreed to set minimum age of 18 for participating in Serps restoration/maintenance days. Agreed that any outreach event including attendees under age 18 must include a TNC Youth Qualified leader. Chris and Tracy agreed to complete the TNC qualification

process starting by completing the TNC Youth Safety Background Check consent forms and submitting to Molly (by January 23).

- Lower Chrome
Henry reported that there is renewed interest from TNC in holding a burn at Lower Chrome

Reports of Committees

- Outreach

Tracy hopes to convene a meeting of the Outreach and Fundraising Committee (including Jennifer Pavao, Marian Quinn and Chris) before the February Board meeting

Tasks for the Committee

Pin down February/March Oxford library talk
March deadline for including summer events in Chester County Parks newsletter
April ephemerals hike at NCP
May First Fridays
Moth event for July
One first Friday in Fall
One fall hike

Organize a plant sale with two pickup opportunities -- May 5 First Friday or May 7 Tristate open house.

- Restoration

See above

- Annual report

Chris plans to identify within the next week gaps in the data needed to complete the annual report and will contact board members as needed.

Business

- Stakeholders Meeting

The Board is willing to sponsor a limited scope version of the biennial stakeholders meeting primarily for our partner landowners focused on a) an update of what has been accomplished on those properties over the past two years, b) pressing needs for the coming year, and c) strategies for addressing those needs.

After consulting with Molly, Henry will circulate a list of the individuals he proposes to invite to the meeting.

Chris will confirm with Molly our willingness to proceed and agree on potential dates.

- Trips to other Barrens

Tracy outlined a proposal to organize field trip/hikes with representatives of organization responsible for the care of other nearby Barrens to strengthen contacts and share strategies. Include an ecology student group or class from a nearby college or university

Rock Springs (this spring with Rocky Gleason and representative from Lancaster County Conservancy)

Pink Hill/Unionville (summer with Roger Latham and/or representatives of Natural Lands Trust) Pilot/Soldiers Delight (fall with Wayne Tinsdale)

The Board endorsed pursuing the idea

- Bridge replacement at Goat Hill

Chris reports that BoF has placed 4x4's under the failing bridge. Chris will arrange with Andy to complete the repair, ensuring that at least three people are on hand for the work.

Adjournment

Adjourned at 4pm with thanks to Henry for hosting.