

FRIENDS OF SCHODACK ISLAND STATE PARK, INC.

Minutes of the February 10, 2014 Board Meeting

Attendance

Present: Board members: Dan Odell, Ken Stokem, Karen Kaufmann, Jim Bult, Scott Monthie, Chris Monthie, and Andy Orhin. Park Staff: Joe Scandura and John Lowe. Absent: Leah Taylor and Ed Secovnie. Others: Bill McCormick and Christine Torey

The meeting was called to order by Dan at 7:04 PM. He noted the presence of a quorum.

Minutes: The minutes of the annual meeting held on November 5, 2013 were reviewed and approved with corrections following a motion made by Jim and seconded by Karen. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report: Dan distributed the President's Annual Report for 2013, as required by section 5.a. of the bylaws and discussed its content. He also distributed a copy of the Final Grant Report for the Parks and Trails New York Website Development Grant. We have complied with all grant requirements and have received all funds due from Parks and Trails New York. A resolution that the board should recognize Seth Odell with an eagle plaque (similar to those we have presented to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to our organization in the past) for his work on the web site was made by Ken, seconded by Karen and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Annual Report for 2013: Karen distributed a copy of the Treasurer's Report and summarized the contents for the board.

Annual Budget for 2014: A draft budget for the year was presented by Dan. Karen moved the budget be approved, Ken seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report: Joe updated the members on his plans for retirement noting that his retirement party will be held on April 25th. He introduced John Lowe, who will become the new park manager for Schodack Island State Park. John is a graduate of the State University of New York College Environmental Science and Forestry and a career employee of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. He is currently the park manager for Mine Kill and Max V. Shaul State Parks in the Schoharie Valley. John lives in Grafton and is looking forward to his new responsibilities at Schodack Island State Park. His start date at Schodack Island has not yet been set, he may be asked to remain at his current position for some months. If necessary, the Saratoga-Capital Regional Office may assign some interim staff to manage Schodack Island State Park.

Friday Night Skating Under the Lights: Skating on Friday nights has been going well. The park's Winter Festival was a big success in terms of attendance, skate rentals, and the 50/50 raffle. The weather looks like it will cooperate for several more weeks of skating.

I Love My Park Day: The 2014 statewide I Love My Park Day is scheduled for May 3, 2014 (the first Saturday in May). Plans for this event were reviewed.

Dodge the Deer – April 19 This event, sponsored by the Albany Running Exchange was discussed. The Friends group has had an information table at previous Dodge the Deer day events, if anyone would like to volunteer to staff a table this year they should contact Dan.

American Trails Day – June 7 At the November meeting, there had been discussion of seeking volunteers to work on a connector trail and set the date for this activity to coincide with this national event. Jim Bult volunteered to be “trail boss” for the day. However, Joe said he had not yet received approval from the regional office to move forward on this. It was agreed to hold off doing planning for this event at this time.

Recognizing Toni Gatto-Chinery’s service: As discussed at the November meeting, a resolution was presented to the board recognizing Toni’s service. Ken moved the resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Karen and approved unanimously.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Karen, seconded by Chris to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.