

**Friends of Point Beach State Forest (FPBSF)
General Membership Meeting Minutes
City of Two Rivers Fire Department Community Room
Tuesday, April 11, 2006**

Members and Prospective Members Present: There were approximately 30 individuals present at this meeting.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by President Randy Beecher.

Approval of the Minutes

Secretary Debbie Timm read the minutes from the second fall general membership meeting, held on December 6, 2005. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Pilzak reported, at this time, there are 49 paid memberships.

Bob presented the treasurer's report with the checking account transactions between March 9, 2006 and April 10, 2006. The balance of this activity was \$1,411.22. At this time, the savings account balance was \$11,207.35. There were no comments or questions. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

Park Bench Report

Dave Meyer reported that three new bench orders have been received and should be completed by the April 29.

Park Report

Park Ranger Gene Tiser presented the park report.

- The State Park web site states that Point Beach Forest is not open; however, that is an error.
- There is a new Park map with a more accurate depiction of the campsites.
- The water is on in the campground; however, the new shower building is not functioning, yet. It is a long process to start it up and is being worked on.
- The target completion date for the old shower building is mid May.
- The Emerald Ash Borer is a very serious problem. It is considered the next "Dutch Elm Disease." Gene warned that because this problem may be passed along via firewood from other states, the park staff has been ordered to confiscate any out-of-state firewood.
- There is now a maximum camping stay of 14 days per reservation.
- The tent or camper must be totally set up on the site the first day of the reservation.
- There are no longer sliding reservations.
- The Park is getting a new computer system that currently has some "bugs" to be worked out. Badger Net will be online at the end of June. This situation is slowing the check-in process.
- New admission stickers are \$25.00 with a second sticker being \$12.50 or half-price. The price of a sticker for residents over 65 is \$10.00.
- Volunteers are needed throughout the year to be camp hosts, bike patrol, ski patrol, Ice Age Trail workers, piping plover watchers, and dune thistle counters.

- UWGB students will be conducting Park studies of migrating bird and blue spotted salamanders.
- There will be a watch for lime grass an invasive species that endangers wheat grass.
- Gene stated that team captains will be needed for park clean-up on April 29, 2006.
- During the off camping season, the lodge will be able to be rented for events for \$80.00.
- To prevent runoff, the lodge parking lot will be resurfaced in fall.
- Gene cautioned that turkey hunting will open April 12, 2006 and lasts to May 21, 2006. It starts 30 minutes before sunrise and goes to 5:00 p.m. Hunting is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. People using the trails should wear bright colors.

Founding Members Plaque

Randy reported that the founding members' plaque has been completed; however, it cannot be hung on the wall of the check-in station because of its weight and size. The Park staff has come up with some ideas for display.

Friends of the Friends

Randy explained the FPBSF has decided to honor an individual, group, or business that has gone over and above to help the "Friends" group or the park. The group chose to honor Leigh Stegemann, owner of M&M Lunch, with a plaque. Leigh has donated food, equipment, and given discounted prices for most of the FPBSF fundraising events.

Ice Age Trail

A portion of the Ice Age Trail will be going through the Point Beach State Forest. The work will be done in fall. Cheryl Gorsuch of the Manitowoc County Chapter will attend the FPBSF May board meeting to explain the plans and what kind of help that will be needed.

Conservation in Common

Debbie presented an overview of the Conservation in Common conference that she and Mike Timm attended at Camp Matawa on March 31 and April 1, 2006. It was a very informative, joint conference sponsored by the River Alliance of Wisconsin and Friends of Wisconsin State Parks. Speakers with specialties in conservation of natural resources presented 19 educational sessions.

Candlelight Ski/Hike

Nannette Krause reported a record attendance for the 2006 Candlelight Ski/Hike. The mild weather allowed people of all ages to participate in the hike. There were two lighted trails – the nature trail and a loop through the campground. The food sold out.

Lodge Lighting

Bob reported that the lodge lights have been completed.

Coenen Memorial

Children of Pat Coenen questioned if it had been decided how to use the memorial money donated to the FPBSF. There have been several ideas; however, nothing definite has been decided. The family members were asked if they had a preference. They will think about it and get back to the group. The board will welcome any suggestion from other group members.

Upcoming Events

Randy reminded everyone that there were sign-up sheets for the upcoming events.

The Park Clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 29. Workers should meet at 8:00 a.m. at the maintenance shop or can participate anytime throughout the day. The brat fry will be held at Bill's Pick N Save on Thursday, May 18 and the Breakfast in the Forest will be held on Sunday, June 4 at the lodge. Randy explained the breakfast menu and plans.

New Friend's Merchandise

Angie and Don Peltier modeled the new FPBSF T-shirts. They also presented the Point Beach pins. Angie and Don have been working on mapping the trail to be hiked for the pin discount.

70th Anniversary 2007

Gene reminded the group that 2007 is the 70th Anniversary of Point Beach State Forest. He would like the FPBSF to come up with some special ideas to celebrate.

Newsletter Contributors and Photo Contest

Angie asked that anyone interested in contributing an article to the FPBSF newsletter should contact her. The best way to submit article is by E-mail. Angie's E-mail address is available through any board member.

Gene reminded the meeting attendees that there is a FPBSF photo contest going on. Details are available and photos can be viewed at the park office.

At 7:50 p.m., a motion was made, seconded, and passed to adjourn the meeting. Randy announced that after a brief break, the monthly board meeting will begin. General membership attendees were invited to stay for the board meeting.

Submitted by Debbie Timm