

Friends of Hashawha and Bear Branch (FHBB)

FINAL Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2022, 7pm

In person at BBNC with a virtual option, link was sent out prior to meeting

friendsofhbb@gmail.com

In Person Attendees:

Michelle Scott (Chairperson)
Nicole Bowman (Vice Chairperson)
Sarah Franz (Secretary)
Dawn Harry (Bear Branch Nature Center)
Ken Harris
Jason Irla (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
Jess Horning
Will Horning
Robert Scott

Kristin Darby
Deb Mathias
Mika Lawrence

Virtual Attendees:

Chris Markle (Treasurer)
Maggie Kunz (Public Affairs Officer)
Alison Malachowski
Rachel Hall

1) Call to Order

- a) Welcome and introductions
- b) The August 2022 minutes have not been sent for review yet. Michelle will send out to everyone and ask for any objections to finalizing the minutes.

2) Reports

- a) Treasurer – reviewed monthly account and funds activity. Requested inventory of syrup and honey so it can be tracked and to know what has sold and what remains. Egg Hunt money is still pending. First Aid funds are also pending.
- b) Social Media – caught up on events postings
- c) Park Operations/Nature Center
 - i) Outdoor school is coming back Sept 12th every week until holidays.
 - ii) Summer camps have wrapped up this week and summer went well.
 - iii) Egg Hunt money from Rec Desk - somehow the money for the Egg Hunt got wrapped up with the rest of RecDesk revenue for end of year accounting, so that money is no longer available. However, the monarch festival profits will be given to FHBB due to this oversight. In addition, a check was issued to FHBB for \$700 in new memberships and will be transferred to the FHBB account.

3) Wilderness First Aid

- a) Sept 24 and 25, 2022
- b) Only 2 of 15 openings are filled. Deadline to register is the 15th. Minimum class size is 5 or it will be canceled.

4) Projects

- a) Gardens – Last weekend 12 volunteers came to help around the pond. September 17th 9-11am is the next volunteer event at the nature center to work on the tribute garden. The “Adopt a Garden” needs to be better advertised. This is a good time of year for insect collecting for display.
- b) Trails (MORE) – Trees are still falling that were weakened during the July 12th storm event. Most trails are usable, but a small handful still have problems. People are ignoring the ribbons placed to close the trail. Thursday and Sat rides have resumed and have been popular. Obtained 20 Share the Trail signs purchased by MORE. Maggie will post a photo of the signs in place to spread the word of what they mean so people are aware. Jason: MORE applied for grant through Hey Westminster and won the grant for \$1000 and can now apply for matching grants for up to \$5000 through MORE. These funds will go into trail maintenance and signs. Will need to come up with how these funds will be used - more trailhead signs, chainsaw and safety equipment. Open to suggestions. MTBMD group is a spin-off of MORE.

- c) Banner - a vote for the 5'x2' or 5'x3' size banner was conducted. The 5'x2' size was favored. Dawn and Brad have approved. Jeff needs to approve it, then it can be ordered.

5) Events

- a) Monarch Madness - volunteer assignments have been posted. Email Bear Branch or FHBB if interested in volunteering.
- b) Run for the Raptors - about 10 people have registered so far. Shirts will be ordered.
- c) Volunteer PotLuck - Oct. 9th, 4-6pm, low-key get together and get to know other volunteers. Everyone will bring a dish to share. Will send out a signup genius. FHBB can provide paper supplies.
- d) Duck Hunt - Will start planning in mid-September.
- e) Environmental Symposium - new contact person, hosted for Carroll County by Carroll County Resource Management Ed Singer, waiting for more information on details. Would like FHBB to participate.

6) Accreditation Audit

- a) Ken Harris and Jason Irla have volunteered and are independent of the Executive Board to review the records from the treasurer and report back to the Treasurer during a regular meeting with findings included in the minutes. The objective is to review financial records to determine it is accurate, review website/social media site, list of officers, copy of bylaws, etc. Michelle will send out the list of requirements and who is responsible for each item.
- b) Ken Harris and Jason Irla have volunteered. Chris will provide copies of receipts.

7) New Business

- a) Volunteer of the Year - Jenna and Dawn have a suggestion and the FHBB will approve. The team that started the gardening program was nominated: Rachel Hall, Alison Malichowski, Chris Markle, and Adam Nickey. The tribute garden was the starting project and has a massive impact on the nature center and is the first thing people see. It is now a program that continues to bring volunteers.
- b) Election of Officers - anyone who is interested in volunteering. Nominations due at Oct. meeting. Elections will be done in Nov.
- c) Volunteer Recruitment Ideas - have an email signup list at the symposium and other events. Also have a signup list on the desk in the nature center with a stack of flyers.

8) Announcements

- a) Next FHBB meeting is Oct. 6th
- b) Monarch Madness

9) Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

