



Friends of Hashawha Bear Branch

300 John Owings Road
Westminster, MD 21157-3149
410-386-3560
friendsofhbb@gmail.com

FINAL Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2023, 7pm

In person at BBNC with a virtual option. A link was sent out prior to the meeting.

friendsofhbb@gmail.com

In Person Attendees:

Michelle Scott (Chairperson)
Nicole Bowman (Vice Chairperson)
Sarah Franz (Secretary)
Maggie Kunz (Public Affairs Officer)
Ken Harris (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
Jason Irla (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)
Robert Scott
Linda Ashburn (new volunteer)
Kristin Darby
Mika Lawrence
Dawn Harry (BBNC)
Jenna Mele (BBNC)

Virtual Attendees:

Jess Horning
Harold Scott
Shelly Ryan (new volunteer)
Chris Markle (Treasurer)
Rachel Hall

1. Call to order

- a) Welcome and Introductions
- b) Review and approve February meeting minutes.
- c) Discussion on testing of Mail Chimp for sending newsletter.

2. Reports

- a) Treasurer
 - i. Update of balance for general fund, animal fund and garden fund, updated for purchases. No updates from fraud investigation, however, the money was returned. Dawn will know by April regarding 2022 Run for Raptors and Duck Hunt funds from Rec Desk.
 - ii. Request for current honey and syrup stock from BBNC.
- b) Social Media
 - i. Posting activity is consistent and website is now up and live.
- c) Park Operations
 - i. Deck at residential camp is almost complete.
 - ii. Working on 2023 Master Naturalist class which will start March 19th.





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- iii. Working with Outdoor School to plant 375 trees at the pavilion site in March and April. There will be a variety of species.
- d) Nature Center
 - i. Maple Fest – preparations underway. There are 2 trees that are tapped. Friday training during field trip for tapping trees. Hikes will be every 30 minutes. No more trees will be tapped because they aren't producing anything.
 - ii. Field trip training on March 25th at 10-12pm to help Jenna with April-June field trips.
 - iii. Summer camp counselor applications will be reviewed next week. Camps are nearly full.
 - iv. Animals are all doing well.
 - v. Voting for diamondback name: Tess, Chessie, Scutes

3. Old Business

a) Gardens

- i. Alison created a monthly newsletter for the gardens.
- ii. Seeds are starting in greenhouse
- iii. March 18th garden work day for 14 and up at 10am.

b) Events

- i. Maple Fest – March 4 and 5. FHBB table and volunteers. Sticker, hike, and syrup sales via cash, check or Square. Volunteers still needed for Sunday. Chris asked that if the Square is used, to please ask for a \$1 donation to cover the card reader fee.
- ii. Adult Egg Hunt – April 1st at 7:30pm. Still need volunteers the day-of to hide eggs from 3-5pm. \$20 per person. Event is on the white and green trail. Also need donations from community for the prizes and baskets for the hunt. Jenna will be the bunny, who will carry extra eggs. Event is sold out and has 45 people wait list.

c) Trails

- i. Ken attended Dept of Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee meeting regarding e-bikes in the parks. The committee will discuss the issue and make a decision. Class 1 is pedal-assist motor e-bikes. Class 2 is a throttle-motorized e-bike. Class 3 is throttle and limited to 28 mph. The concern is the throttle design can spin wheels and kick up mud and dirt (which ruin the trails).
- ii. Approval to open section of trail by Muddy Lane to make it a bit more safe near the road and will clear it on March 11th.
- iii. Mountain bike festival scheduled for June 3rd, with rain date of June 10th. Registration opens March 1st. There will be a long loop and a short loop.
- iv. In 2028, there are funds to survey Union Mills/Hashawha trails and determine which trails are sustainable.

d) T-shirts and Stickers

- i. Stickers are ready. They are \$2 each. T-shirts have been ordered – 30 of each kind. They will be ready in about 2 weeks.





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- e) Website
 - i. Michelle noted that the garden page is difficult to find. Maggie will tweek the site so it's easier to find and create a drop down menu. Also will need to add events to the website. Guidelines for adopt a garden program also need to be added to the garden page.
 - ii. Got approval from Jeff Degitiz on the website. Social media is not policed by the county, but will deal with negative comments professionally.
- f) Scout Expo
 - i. FHBB will have a table next to Piney Run. Need general park maps and other handouts, specifically activities that scouts can do. Mika is collecting all the handouts. Suggested that MORE join the expo.

4. New Business

- a) Email/Newsletter – First issue was sent out in Feb. Some issues with newsletter going to spam folder. Newsletter will be monthly. Information and photos to add to the next newsletter can be sent to Rob Scott.
- b) Earth Day, April 22nd 10-12pm
 - i. Maggie will have a come-and-learn table with earth-friendly information at BNCC. Chrissy Gallo will also assist with tables, games, and the Lorax. Need volunteers. Will have a donation box.
- c) Bulletin Board Flyers
 - i. FHBB will have a board installed in the nature center with info. of upcoming events, QR codes, activities, volunteer needs, projects, and fliers.
- d) QR Code Checkup/Activity Event Photos
 - i. QR codes are being created for various in-the-know sites.
 - ii. Request to take pictures of activities and events to use on bulletin boards and website. Note that permission is needed to take picture and post on website. Registered attendees have already signed a waiver, and volunteers have a clause as well.
- e) Members Questions/Concerns
 - i. Maggie attended an Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay event – trim bushes and plant trimmings along stream banks and other areas. Can incorporate this at BBNC. This is a good event with no costs involved.

5. Announcements/Upcoming Events

- a) Maple Fest March 4-5
- b) Scout Expo- March 14
- c) BBNC field trip training March 25
- d) Adult Egg Hunt April 1
- e) Next FHBB meeting April 6





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- f) Earth Day Event- April 22
- g) FoCRP meeting April 25

Motion to adjourn – 8:15 pm