



# Friends of Hashawha Bear Branch

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

## FINAL Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2023, 7pm

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

[friendsofhbb@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofhbb@gmail.com)

In-Person Attendees:	Virtual Attendees:
Michelle Scott (Chairperson)	Sarah Franz (Secretary)
Nicole Bowman (Vice Chairperson)	Jessica Horning
Chris Markle (Treasurer)	Jenna Mele (BBNC)
Kristin Darby	Mika Lawrence
Rachel Hall	Will Horning
Ken Harris (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts)	
Maggie Kunz (Public Affairs Officer)	
Alison Malachowski	
Dawn Harry (BBNC)	
Robert Scott	
Chrissy Gallo	
Harold Scott	

### 1. Call to Order

- a) Welcome and Introductions
- b) Review and approve July meeting minutes.

### 2. Reports

- a) Treasurer
  - i. Reviewed current funds. We are in the red in syrup and shirts which are in the gift shop and not being sold.
  - ii. Sept 30-June 30th supplemental audit for County is ongoing
  - iii. Scrap turf from Lowes and Home Depot. Home Depot is willing to donate materials available in squares.
- b) Social Media
  - i. Continue to post items as they come in and share posts from Rec and Parks.
  - ii. Working to update the website with copies of the meeting minutes for the last calendar year.
- c) Park Operations
  - i. Wrapping up residential camps. Attendance reached pre-pandemic levels.
  - ii. Tentatively looking at replacing the aviary. Two outdoor school teachers have reached out to their contacts at Knorr Brakes, but they may not be the best option. KNorr may be able to help find grants for the project. A conservative estimate is \$250,000.00 based on Irvine's project, so we can continue to look into alternatives. The staff also knows what is needed for the birds. We can start advertising/fundraising and increase community interest to help bring in funds.





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There are specific wishes and questions from Jenna and Michelle regarding the design of the new structure.

- d) Nature Center
  - i. Camp Director is taking on more responsibility and plans to stay on throughout the Fall.
  - ii. Eggs and caterpillars are being collected for the Monarch Festival.
  - iii. New volunteer, Gabe, has joined to help with pond maintenance. He would like to do a full pond cleanout and is looking for help. Tuesday August 15 and 17.
  - iv. Field trips will start when camp is over and volunteers are needed.

### 3. Old Business

- a) Gardens
  - i. Pumpkins have a fungus, Alison will pull them out and throw them away to prevent spreading. Weight is about 50-60 pounds. No other squash plants should be planted there.
  - ii. Adopt-A-Garden program is doing well. One issue is lack of rain, so volunteers to come and water has been a help.
  - iii. Alison is retiring from Garden Coordinator this year. She will be willing to help, but needs someone else to do the "heavy lifting". Will continue doing programs and taxidermy.
- b) Trails
  - i. Will set some trail maintenance dates to cut back weed growth and clean up storm damage.
  - ii. Eagle Scout is putting together a preliminary plan for a bike stand, which will need to be approved by Dawn and Jason.
  - iii. E-bikes: County voted "yes" to allow class 1 E-bikes on the Hashawha trails. The caveat is to create more awareness of trail etiquette for all users. Requested to create a trail etiquette video in the park that will be posted on MORE website.
  - iv. Equestrian group has requested during the FoCRP meeting that there be horse-only trails.
- c) FHBB Volunteer of the Year, due to the County by Aug. 31.
  - i. Voting time is August 7-21st via Google Forms. Winner will be announced by email.
- d) Accreditation update, due Aug. 31
  - i. Background checks - board members and leading kid programs are required to complete yearly. The cost is \$3 per volunteer, to be paid for by FHBB.
  - ii. Butterfly House - Self Help Program is ongoing, but several road bumps are throwing progress off. Project will cost \$20,000 total.

### 4. New Business

- a) FoCRP Meeting Summary
  - i. The Air Quality Index has been added to the County's severe weather policy and references [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) for guidelines. Michelle asked what actions should be taken and who makes those decisions? There was no straight answer. For now each council uses best judgment.



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- ii. The IRS now requires all councils to file as a 501c3 as separate organizations instead of under one umbrella as Parks and Rec. We are to use an unincorporated tax code. More info is coming and the Comptroller Office will provide training and more guidance on who is required to do what. Donation programs do not need to go through FoCRP anymore.
- iii. Pilot program to remove trash cans in parks.
- b) Consider nominations for FHBB officers. Current term ends in November. Nominations are due by October. Voting is done in November. The positions for nominations are the chairperson, vice chairperson, public affairs officer, and secretary.
- c) Monarch Festival Plans
  - i. Looking for volunteers.
- d) Raptor Romp meeting Aug 4, 1pm
  - i. Walking event and activities at the Mews.

## 5. Announcements/Upcoming Events

- a) Monarch Fest- September 9
- b) CCBC Family Friendly Bird Walk- September 23
- c) Raptor Romp- October 7
- d) Volunteer Potluck- October 14, 1-3pm
- e) FoCRP meeting- October 24
- f) 2nd Annual Environmental Symposium- October 28
- g) Family Duck Hunt- November 4 (rain date Nov. 18)

Motion to adjourn – 8:15pm