



Friends of Hashawha Bear Branch

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

FINAL Meeting Minutes
September 7, 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:	Virtual Attendees:
Michelle Scott (Chairperson)	Sarah Franz (Secretary)
Chris Markle (Treasurer)	Jessica Horning
Maggie Kunz (Public Affairs Officer)	Will Horning
Rachel Hall	Harold Scott
Alison Malachowski	Beth Scott
Dawn Harry (BBNC)	Jenna Mele (BBNC)
Robert Scott	
Jason Irla (MORE)	

1. Call to Order

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

2. Reports

- a) Treasurer
 - i. Lesson learned from audit to make the next audit easier.
 - ii. Reviewed status of funds for the month.
 - iii. Still have unsold shirts and syrup.
 - iv. Suggested the money from the fish food machine be used for pond maintenance. The self-help application for next year can also be used for this project.
- b) Social Media
 - i. Increasing followers
 - ii. Brainstorming ways to share or link Bear Branch/Hashawha Facebook page to the FHBB page.
 - iii. Looking to figure out how to transfer social media accounts to the next PAO.
- c) Park Operations
 - i. Updates to cabins continue
 - ii. Octagon pavilion being repaired
 - iii. Getting ready for Monarch Fest
- d) Nature Center
 - i. Camps over.
 - ii. Weekend programs are booked through December.
 - iii. All raptors are due for health checks. Marty, red-tailed hawk vet visit went well. Signage posted about him lying on the ground is normal due to age - pushing 30 years old.





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- iv. Will be getting a new Plecko for the turtle tank
- v. Intern starting for fall season

3. Old Business

- a) Monarch Fest-
 - i. Butterfly lollipops to be sold
- b) Raptor Romp- Oct. 7, 10am-1pm
 - i. Activity/interactive stations along the trail with focus on the birds. Need volunteers to man the stations - reach out to Michelle or Maggie. One station will be making enrichment for the birds and is looking for extra materials such as granola bar and ritz cracker boxes. Michelle will create a list of needed materials and send it out.
- c) Gardens
 - i. Will start cutting back some plants, but most will remain for food and nesting sources for birds and insects during the winter. Suggested placing signage in the garden and posting to Facebook to educate on the benefits to keeping your gardens messy until the spring.
 - ii. Alison reached out to the Master Gardeners Program POC at University of MD to find her replacement. The POC shared they are more interested in teaching and education, rather than field work. So Alison is still looking for a replacement.
- d) Trails
 - i. Vegetation management days didn't get scheduled due to storms.
 - ii. Trail clearance for storm damage took about 2 weeks to complete. There were many volunteers helping out.
 - iii. Sep and Oct are busy bike event months so vegetation management will need to wait
 - iv. Created a trail etiquette video with Bear Branch staff
 - v. Bike service station - Eagle scout project - still pending
 - vi. Michelle noted a recent positive comment from a park visitor on how well maintained the trails are.
- e) Butterfly House/Self Help Application
 - i. Application has been submitted. Presentations are Sep 27th then the advisory board makes the decisions on who receives funding. Once FHBB is funded, permit applications must be completed.
- f) Nominations for FHBB officers
 - i. Rachel Hall nominated herself for the PAO position.
 - ii. Michelle Scott nominated herself for the vice president position.
 - iii. Maggie Kunz nominated herself for the secretary position.
 - iv. Still looking for nominations for chairperson.

4. New Business





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- a) 2024 Volunteer of the Year committee.
 - i. A committee will be formed for next year to manage this instead of the chairperson
 - ii. Alison is being nominated for the volunteer hall of fame.
- b) Migration Celebration at Cromwell Valley Park, Sep. 16th.
 - i. Michelle, Rachel, and Kristin Darby will bring birds to showcase.
- c) Volunteer Potluck, Oct. 14, 1-3pm
 - i. All volunteers and their families are invited
- d) Family Duck Hunt preparations
 - i. Pending completion of Monarch Festival
- e) IRS 501c3 Meeting with County
 - i. Oct. 4th, 6:30-8pm at Carroll County Public Safety Center
 - ii. The County Comptroller will meet with volunteer councils to discuss how to apply for 501c3. Michelle and Chris will attend.

5. Announcements/Upcoming Events

- a) Monarch Fest- September 9
- b) CCBC Family Friendly Bird Walk- September 23. Bird Club event to spread awareness to bird migration.
- c) IRS 501c3 Meeting with County- October 4
- d) Raptor Romp- October 7
- e) Volunteer Potluck- October 14, 1-3pm
- f) FoCRP meeting- October 24
- g) 2nd Annual Environmental Symposium- October 28
- h) Family Duck Hunt- November 4 (rain date Nov. 18)

Motion to adjourn – 7:58pm