

Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park

Minutes 16 August 2018

Present: John Bacon (guest), David Hayes (guest), Lynn Zawojski, Jim Perry, Dale and Mary Goodner, Carl Scholz, Nick Hefter (Park Manager), Susan Cubar, Erin Brown Stender (From DNR), Rich Dirks, Curtis Dessow (Ranger), Adele Douglass.

John Bacon and David Hayes, representing the Friends of Grand Traverse Islands presented a power point program describing the mission of the group which is beginning the process of requesting the creation of a national park consisting of public and tribal lands in Michigan and Wisconsin along the northern edge of Lake Michigan.

The agenda was approved (Susan/Dale).

Susan's budget proposal was discussed and approved. (Dale/Rich). It had been discussed at some length at the June meeting but could not be approved due to a lack of quorum at the July meeting. The June and July treasurer's reports were also approved (Rich/Mary).

In his park report, Nick reported a slight drop in attendance during July from a year ago, also a slight reduction in sticker sales. The lake level has declined slightly, he is hopeful of reopening the first access site which has been closed since spring. Rip rap on the gravel path to the beach is being considered to make it accessible to handicapped visitors. Erin reiterated that although the beach has not been accessible to handicapped persons in 2018, the park has a mission to provide access to these individuals, so perhaps some sort of retaining wall will need to be considered in the future. The electronic kiosk is working, but some problems have occurred in reading credit cards. The timber harvest will begin soon. Drainage has long been a problem in front of the Nature Center, especially in winter when ice accumulates in this area. Bids have been solicited to correct this problem, which should be resolved before the start of winter. Erin told the board that rangers would be reinstated in state parks in 2019.

The candlelight walk will be held on Aug. 20 with candles lit about 6:30. Popcorn, s'mores, and lemonade to be available at the Nature Center. Adele will loan a portable fire pit for the evening which will be installed nearby.

Jim reports that he continues to take down cairns nearly every day, especially weekend afternoons. He has photos of some of the constructions. He suggested more supervision, perhaps even closing the area. Nic and Erin reminded us that this is the park responsibility and that they would act to find a solution, but closing an area is not an option. Jim is also collecting trash, especially closer to Cave Point Park.

Susan reports that fundraising for the brachiopod trail replacement is going well, and is almost ready to begin an engineering study. Erin and Nic said they would look into how this process begins.

A new projector is needed for the Nature Center. Money for this purchase has been approved in the budget passed earlier in the meeting.

It was agreed that one individual needs to be responsible for each event held by the Friends. The following were agreed upon. Jim (annual meeting, 9/22, 9:30), Susan (fall work day 10/20, 9am to 3), Lynn (holiday pot luck, 12/13 at 10:30).

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday Sept. 22 at 9:30 with donuts and coffee to be served.