

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting April 25, 2016**

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Doug & Donna Niemi, Rhonda Walls, Shirley Sloan-Babb, Olivia, Mallory, Amelia

Minutes approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of October 26, 2015	\$4,445.95
Total Credits	\$647.54
Total Debits	\$1,784.94
Balance April 25, 2016	\$3,308.55

Treasurer Report Presented & Approved

Old Business

- Merlin & Owl will be ready for pick up the end of May – cost \$625.
- Cost of Bear hide approved with range of \$75-225
- A new FOGH interpretive computer has been purchased. Users were reminded to unplug when not in use or when storms are looming.
- The Easter Egg Hunt had 75 in attendance.

Park Manager Time

A hydrologist is now assisting with the location for the new well in the Hickory Ridge Campground. A possible location may be near the seed orchard road. All water tests were good. A new protocol will require every system to be tested every month at a cost of \$18.50 per sample. The Run Bum race had 285 runners and \$2,065 in parking collected. A new wire had to be run for internet access to the contact station from the office with a cost of \$1,000. There are 22 seasonal staff hired. Mallory is working for AmeriCorps. A new Bear Policy requires documentation of any sightings in a developed area. The prescribed burn was cancelled due to high risk from weather conditions. Jordan Blevins planted 2 white oaks near the Wayne C stage to offer shade in the future.

New Business

- Amelia is working 4-5 off-site school programs a week. Grayson Highlands is a 21st Century Most Committed Partner. She will be going to Atkins and Sugar Grove May 13th and 27th.
- Rhonda attended the VAFP meeting and reported the VAFP challenges all Friends groups to donate to the benevolence fund.
- The State Park Master Plan is being renewed this summer. There will be a public meeting in early July.
- Four yurts will be placed in the Hickory Ridge Campground (near sites 57-61). Other pilot parks for yurts include Natural Tunnel, Hungry Mother & Pocahontas.
- Amelia requested buttons for the Adventure (60) & JR (40) ranger programs be purchased. Motion made, seconded and approved by FOGH.
- Amelia requested funds for the continuation of the Historical Herb Garden. Work on this will be May 23rd from 12- 2 p.m. Cost requested \$75 – motion made, seconded & approved by FOGH.
- Amelia requested funds of \$35 for the Great American Campout to be held June 25th from 5-7 p.m. and limited to 10 participants.
- Determination for continuation of the Haunted Hayride has been deferred to Kay Henderson & Shirley Sloan-Babb.
- Amelia is planning a Box Turtle Habitat Grand Opening. The location will be in the raised bed at the Visitor Center. It will be held on May 28th at 10:30 a.m. Funds requested for this is \$50. Motion made, seconded and approved by FOGH.