

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park  
Minutes of Meeting May 16, 2016**

**Present:** Harvey & Moe Thompson, Donna Niemi, Rhonda Walls, Shirley Sloan-Babb, Amelia Hulth, JoAnn Severt, Bob & Mary Felicito

Minutes approved

<b>Treasurer's Report:</b> Balance as of April 25, 2016	\$3,308.55
Total Credits	\$1,510.00
Total Debits	\$ 0.00
Balance May 16, 2016	\$4,818.55

Treasurer Report Presented & Approved

**Old Business**

- Merlin & Owl are ready for pick up. Amelia will drop off the bear pelt when she picks the birds up.
- The Halloween Hayride event will be changed to a smaller event this year and will be held in the campground with the possibility of incorporating a "spooky" trail with the event.
- DGIF (Dept of Game & Inland Fisheries) requires and education exhibit permit for the Box Turtle exhibit. The cost is \$20 per year. FOGH approved this cost.
- Cost of up to \$25 approved for plants for the fern bed at the Visitor Center.
- FOGH approved \$100 towards the cost of the VAFP challenge to 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 July. FOGH members and community are encouraged to attend and provide input.
- The buttons for the Adventure (60) & JR (40) ranger programs will be purchased directly through FOGH. Amelia will work with FOGH on the design and ordering methodology.

**Park Manager Time**

The white oaks planted in the homestead area are doing well and leafing out. The Visitor Center was open Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Lots of positive comments have been received about the esthetics of the park. Some signs within the park will be replaced. A 40 page water study report was submitted last Monday. This will assist with determining the location of the new well. Two of the twenty-two hires have quit and these positions are in the process of being filled. Sign of bear on the Rock House Ridge Trail has been reported. This past week \$1700 in merchandise was sold with an estimate of \$190,000 anticipated for for 2016. The budget is due May 19<sup>th</sup> with a figure of \$407,511 in which to work. The P14 salary of \$211,000 is included in this figure. Haw Orchard Church is replacing their fence & gave the remaining fence rails to GHSP.

**New Business**

FOGH approved a "Request for Reimbursement" form to be used for all future expenditures.  
FOGH approved \$200 for our webmaster, John Canfield, for extra compensation for his work in upgrading the weather station. He has spent many hours and requests very little for his time and talent.  
FOGH approved \$349.95 towards the cost of a telescope case for the very expensive telescope owned by the park. The telescope is currently being cleaned and recalibrated for use. Amelia is receiving training on proper care and use.  
A barn dance featuring a caller and the Whitetop Mountain Band will be held June 26<sup>th</sup>. FOGH approved cost to provide lemonade and water for a refreshing cool down.  
FOGH approved \$75 for a new hose and annuals for the Visitor Center. Donna Niemi will arrange this.

Next meeting will be held June 20, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Wayne C Henderson Stage.