

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting March 16, 2009**

Present: Doug & Donna Niemi, Harvey & Moe Thompson, Kevin Kelley, Joan Collins and Jo Ann Severt

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of March 16, 2009 \$4344.28

Credits:

Membership: \$20.00

Total Credit: \$ 20.00

Debits: \$00.00

Total Debits: \$ 00.00

Approved as presented

Old Business

- Joan Collins brought T-Shirts that were delivered today. Cost was \$127 for 12 (with \$25 for setup fee). We will purchase T-shirts, wear and decide on ordering more at the next meeting. Cost will be \$15 for T-shirt or pay membership fee and \$10 for T-shirt.
- A sample of the plant ID signs was sent from the distribution center. It looks good, but we would like green with white lettering. Kevin will check into this and report at the next meeting.
- Moe will send out an email requesting Friends members help with the Blue Ridge Relay events.

Park Manager Time

Re-qualifying was postponed until April 7th due to snow. Law enforcement vehicles will be upgraded with new equipment on April 22nd in Richmond. Park manager house received the certificate of occupancy; however grading/seeding is not completed. The handicap restroom bid for the regular campground was \$127,000. Visitation is low. Harvey predicts approximately 20% decrease. Seventeen seasonal employees will be hired. Improvements for Cabin Creek and Wilson Trails will be made with funds from the General Obligation Bond (GOB). Four additional park maintenance rangers will be hired for this. The lower campground renovations/improvements is 90% complete. The split rail fencing from the creek to Haw Orchard Lane is completed and work has begun on the second section. All park computers have been refreshed and upgraded to HP computers. Networking of printers is still in progress. Deadline for applications for Assistant Park Manager position is March 16, 2009. A search and rescue for Venture Scouts from North Carolina included 3 females being treated for hypothermia. Grayson Highlands Park made the cover of Highlander's Magazine with the "Wild Pony" sign.

New Business

- Friends will sponsor the purchase of plastic Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt at the park.
- A laptop is needed for interpretive programs. Joan will inquire with Professional Networks to see if they could donate an old laptop for use with power point projection.
- Don Ballenger is very ill, suffering from degenerative ribs and back. Moe will make a card for everyone to sign at our next meeting and send out to him.

Next meeting April 27th 7 p.m. at the Park Office