

Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC)

General Membership Meeting No. 1

May 18, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ed Franco, Acting Chair.

He introduced and welcomed Cumberland County Commissioner Rick Rovegno and all new and existing members to the meeting. There were 31 individuals in attendance.

Ed presented a brief history of how FOLC was organized and an update on recent communications with the PAF&BC.

Cindy Criswell and Steve Fealtman presented a PowerPoint presentation discussing the reason the lake was drawn down, as well as the mission and future plans of FOLC. Steve showed the FOLC website that he is presently working on. The PowerPoint presentation is available to be presented at public speaking events and has already been presented to the Neighborhood Watch meeting of Lower and Upper Frankford Township. The website is up and running, looks beautiful, and includes membership forms that can be downloaded.

A. Grants

FOLC has submitted a grant application to Cumberland County Land Partnership, which is up to a 50/50 match. This grant was for a total of \$16,000, \$8,000 from the county, and \$8,000 in in-kind labor to be provided by FOLC for the purpose of enhancements to the lake property, including an Anglers' Access Trail around the lake, educational/ information kiosks, and benches.

Lower Frankford Township applied for a Growing Greener II grant from Cumberland County to be used for incremental engineering and design of the dam repair and the development of a picnic pavilion and restrooms.

Ed Franco summarized that FOLC currently has a strong cooperative relationship with the PAF&BC and that any and all efforts to raise money through grants and fundraisers, along with public awareness and pressure on the Pennsylvania legislature, will help to make repair of the Opossum Lake dam a higher priority for the Commonwealth.

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B. 501(3)(c) Status

Presently FOLC is incorporated as a not-for-profit organization and will be applying to the IRS for Tax Exempt status. This process will take several months.

The Board of Directors must establish a two-year budget for the submittal.

C. Lower Frankford Township – Tim Lush

Tim Lush spoke of the Township's concern about the lake and its support of the restoration of the dam and the lake. The Township Supervisors have proposed putting forth \$200,000 in matching funds in their application for the Cumberland County Growing Greener II funds.

D. By-Laws and Election of the Board of Directors

The proposed by-laws were distributed for members to read. According to the by-laws, it was agreed that 12 to 15 members be elected to the Board of Directors and 4 officers from that group be elected for a term of one year. The following 14 members present at the meeting volunteered to serve on the Board of Directors and were unanimously elected by voice vote:

Ed Franco, Mary Franco, John Alden, Ruben Lao, Karen Finkenbinder, Craig Boyer, Craig Houston, Cindy Criswell, Gary Criswell, Joe Horn, Steve Kuhn, Wayne DeMoss, Hal Gardner, Steve Fealtman

Officers were then elected by the Board of Directors as follows:

Ed Franco, President
Steve Fealtman, Vice President
Wayne DeMoss, Treasurer
Cindy Criswell, Secretary

The following committees were agreed upon with respective chairs and co-chairs:

Grants: Hal Gardner, Craig Houston
Fundraising: Karen Finkenbinder
Media Relations: John Alden and Steve Fealtman
Projects and Adopt-an-Access: Ruben Lao
Membership: Cindy Criswell

E. Discussion Items

1. Ideas for potential fundraisers such as bike/run around the lake, sale of art, and T-shirts were discussed and will be followed up by the respective committees.
2. Art projects from Shippensburg University students were displayed. These will be considered for T-shirt design and publicity by the Fundraising and Media Committees.
3. Steve Kuhn discussed his New Frontiers Day Camp at the Carlisle YMCA and offered to host a Board of Directors meeting at the camp so board members could become more familiar with the program.
4. We will depend on Senator Vance and Representative Gabig for information on when a letter-writing campaign to the Governor and legislators should be scheduled. This will most likely not be done before the capital budget is approved the end of June 2006.
5. The PAF&BC's "Adopt An Access" program was discussed. No answer was received on a previous question concerning liability. We will develop a waiver of liability form for volunteers to sign prior to participating in FOLC events. The state will also provide an individual to conduct a safety demonstration prior to scheduled work days or trash pick-ups.
6. A Calendar of Events will be established for the next two years. The calendar will include such events as trash pick-up days, trail work days, fundraising events, membership drives, Board of Directors meetings, etc.

F. Next Meeting of the Board of Directors (and any interested members)

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, May 25, 2006 at 7:00 pm at Ed and Mary Franco's home.

The agenda for the meeting will include the following:

1. The Board will establish a calendar for monthly meetings.
2. A Calendar of Events will be established including work days and fundraisers.
3. Board approval of the 501(c)(3) application.

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4. Distribute and discuss the Release from Liability Form.
5. Other business.

G. Corrections and Additions

The above summation is our interpretation of the items discussed and the agreed decisions at the time of this meeting. Any person desiring to add to or modify these minutes is advised to submit comments in writing to the attention of the Secretary no later than five (5) days after receipt; otherwise, these minutes will remain as issued.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Franco

Cynthia E. Criswell
Secretary