

**Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park
Park Advisory Commission Meeting**

March 18, 2010

Strasburg Town Hall
Strasburg, Virginia

- I) General Introduction
- II) Review of Minutes from December 17, 2009
- III) Updates
- IV) Proposed Interpretation at Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP, Eric Campbell
- V) Discussion, Patrick Farris
- VI) Old Business
- VII) New Business
- VIII) Next Meeting—June 17, 2010, Middletown Town Hall, Middletown, Virginia

Meeting Notes

Commission members in attendance: Diann Jacox, Designated Federal Official (DFO); Fred Andreae; Patrick Farris, chair; Sarah Mauck; Pam Sheets; and Jim Smalls.

Commission members absent: Mary Bowser, Roy Downey, Elizabeth McClung, Gary Rinkerman, Dan Stickley, Kris Tierney

Others in attendance: John Adamson, Belle Grove board member; Carl Bernhards Jr., Middletown council member; Cynthia Burton, *Winchester Star*; Eric Campbell, NPS; Bob Grogg, NPS volunteer; Terry Heder, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation; Stanley A. Hirschberg, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation; and Toni Horton, NPS.

Chair Patrick Farris opened the meeting at 8:30. Everyone in the room gave their name and affiliation. The minutes from December 17, 2009, were accepted and approved.

Diann Jacox began by talking about vacancies and terms that are nearing their end on the Federal Advisory Commission. She has written Belle Grove, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Frederick County, the National Trust, private landowners to provide her with nominations for these vacancies. Jacox and Jim Smalls will be renominated and remain in place on the board. Names for the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, Middletown, and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation have been submitted to the NPS Washington Office for approval. The representatives for Warren County and Strasburg are eligible for re-nomination when their terms expire.

These changes will represent major changes in the composition of the advisory commission and they also come at a time in which the focus of the advisory commission will turn from planning to implementation.

The consultants has completed their work on the General Management Plan, and it is on the way to the printer.

The park will be hiring two seasonal interpreters as well as an administrative assistant and a facilities manager.

Eric Campbell gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed interpretive programs that will be instituted this summer. The goals are to meet the expectations of both the public and the Key Partners and to let everyone know that this park is a unit of the National Park System. The programs are also meant to complement, not compete with, existing program managed by the Partners and to build up local support for the park. Park staff are also investigating other means of reaching the public such as podcasts, iPhone apps, and a visitor contact station. Some programs will be geared to special events at the park; others will be directed toward off-site presentations. One such program -- *Cedar Creek in a Box* -- may be appropriate for schools.

Campbell also reported that the park has received funding for doing an interpretive plan; that work will begin later this summer.

Jacox reported that she wanted Eric Campbell to operate primarily as the chief of interpretation. To that end the new seasonal interpreters will have the primary responsibility for presenting individual interpretive programs, while Campbell will be responsible for leading and managing the overall interpretive program.

Stan Hirschberg suggested that Professor Joseph Whitehorne could make some good suggestions.

Someone asked if the programs were geared towards the SOLs (Virginia Standard of Learning). Campbell replied that he will look into that issue. He continued, saying that these programs are only a beginning. The staff will learn what works and what does not work. The programs being proposed for this season will be refined – and may differ in future years. His top priority this year is to simply get an NPS presence on the ground.

Jacox mentioned that relatively speaking, the GMP has been prepared in a record time. Other park staff are focusing on resource stewardship, so that the facilities and historic properties that the national park owns will not be simply mothballed. Heretofore, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP has been mostly a theoretical concept. Now that interpretive programs are coming online, and stewardship activities are under way, the visiting public will begin to perceive Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP as an authentic national park.

Old Business

None

New Business

Jacox reminded everyone that June 17, 2010 is the last Federal Advisory Commission meeting whose date has been published in the Federal *Register*. A quorum must be present to vote on the coming year's meeting dates, so please remind as many members as possible, to be present.

She also told members that there still are many interpretive issues that need to be addressed, including signage issues. Nonetheless, with public programming beginning soon, we are moving in the right direction.

Next Meeting

The commission will meet June 17, 2010, in the Middletown Town Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Handouts

1. Agenda
2. A Plan for Interpretation
3. Meeting Notes from March 18, 2010