

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

January 19, 2006

Strasburg Town Hall
Strasburg, Virginia

Meeting Agenda

- I) General Introductions
- II) Introduction of Patrick Farris, Warren County representative to the Park Advisory Commission
- III) Review and Approval of Minutes from 17 November 2005 meeting (10 minutes)
- IV) GMP Status Update (20 minutes)
- V) Park Transportation Issues; presentation and discussion – Frances Fisher, U.S. Dept. of Transportation (1 hour)
- VI) Old Business
- VII) New Business
- VIII) Handout – future meetings for 2006; possible future topics and agenda items
- IX) Next Meeting – 16 March 2006 in Middletown

Meeting Notes

Commission members in attendance: Diann Jacox, Designated Federal Official (DFO); Mary Bowser; Kris Tierny; Elizabeth McClung; Howard Kittell; Gene Dicks; Gary Rinkerman; Jim Smalls; Richard Kleese; Patrick Farris; Roy Downey

Commission members absent: Alson Smith; Dan Stickley; Fred Andreae

Others in attendance: Chris Stubbs, NPS; Marcus Ordonez, Shenandoah Co. Parks & Rec.; Nora Amos, Town of Strasburg; Frances Fisher, U.S. Dept. of Transportation; Lisa McDonald, Shenandoah Valley Herald; Heather Richards, Potomac Conservancy; Phoebe Kilby, Sympoetica

Chairwoman Mary Bowser chaired the meeting.

The notes from the 17 November 2005 meeting were reviewed and approved as written by unanimous vote, with one abstention.

Chairwoman Bowser introduced the newest member of the Advisory Commission, Mr. Patrick Farris, representing Warren County.

Chairwoman Bowser announced that the National Park Service has received the resignation of Mr. Richard Wilson, representing the Town of Strasburg, from the

Advisory Commission. The Mayor of Strasburg has been asked to nominate a replacement.

Mr. Chris Stubbs of the National Park Service provided a general management plan status update to the Commission, the details of which were handed out to the Commissioners and the public. Mr. Stubbs also handed out the National Park Service scoping guidelines, which had been requested at the previous meeting. A question was asked about scoping presentations to the individual Key Partner organizations. Mr. Stubbs stated that presentations had been made to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation and Belle Grove, Inc. A presentation has been scheduled with Shenandoah County Parks & Rec. Invitations to speak have not been received from the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

There was a presentation from Ms. Frances Fisher, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, on the study being conducted by her agency for the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove general management plan. Ms. Fisher's presentation focused on transportation linkages, points of interest within Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP, types of visitors, and the future expansion of I-81. After the presentation, there was a scoping session with the Commissioners in which they provided input on transportation issues related to the national park. This information will be incorporated in the study being prepared by Ms. Fisher. Diann Jacox raised the topic of carrying capacity, which is evaluated in all GMPs. Carrying capacity is an area's ability to withstand a maximum number of people or vehicles on its roads, trails, campgrounds, structures, etc.

There was a discussion of future commission meetings. Mr. Patrick Farris requested that some future meetings be held in Warren County. It was agreed that Warren County meetings would be added once the current cycle of meetings ends in July. Mr. Kris Tierney requested that the Commissioners have input into the National Park Service public scoping meetings, and input into the GMP mailing list. Mr. Stubbs stated that a high priority for upcoming Commission meetings is to discuss 1) a potential visitor center, and 2) land protection planning. Finally, Mr. Stubbs handed out a list of all currently-scheduled commission meetings. This list had been requested by the commissioners at the last meeting.

A question was asked about the status of the draft by-laws. Superintendent Diann Jacox stated that the National Park Service has not received a response from the solicitor on this document.

After a brief discussion of the next meeting, which will be on 16 March 2006 in Middletown, the meeting was adjourned.

List of handouts provided at 19 January 2006 meeting

1. Meeting agenda
2. Minutes from 17 November 2005 commission meeting
3. GMP status update

4. List of commission meetings
5. National Park Service scoping guidelines