

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

September 17, 2009

Middletown Town Hall  
Middletown, Virginia

- I) General Introduction
- II) Review of Minutes from June 18, 2009.
- III) GMP Status Update.
- IV) New Park Staff Announcements
- V) Expiration of commission chair term, new election in December 2009.
- VI) Ken Burns' film, *The National Parks: This is America*, (45 minutes).
- VII) Old Business
- VIII) New Business
- IX) Next Meeting – December 17, 2009, at the Warren County Government Center, Front Royal, Virginia.

Meeting Notes

Commission members in attendance: Diann Jacox, Designated Federal Official (DFO); Fred Andreae; Mary Bowser; Patrick Farris; Randy Jones; Sarah Mauck; Elizabeth McClung; Pam Sheets; Jim Smalls, Dan Stickley, and Kris Tierney, chair.

Commission members absent: Roy Downey and Gary Rinkerman.

Others in attendance: Carol Bernhards Jr., Middletown council member; Eric Campbell, NPS; Suzanne Chilson, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation; Mark Davis, Middletown council member and planning commission member; Bob Grogg, NPS volunteer; Stanley A. Hirschberg, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation; Linwood Outlaw, III, *Northern Virginia Daily*.

Chair Kris Tierney opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

A review of the meeting notes revealed three necessary corrections. The meeting notes with corrections were approved.

Diann Jacox announced that the GMP with all necessary changes was being reviewed in the regional office and should soon be forwarded to the NPS Washington Office for final approval and implementation.

Jacox introduced Eric Campbell, who comes from Gettysburg National Military Park. He will have responsibility for interpretive programs and work on developing the framework and overall “look” for the park. He will work closely with the partners in all aspects.

Tonia Horton, a historic landscape architect, will report for duty September 28, 2009.

Election for a new commission chair should be held in December. No individual can hold the position for more than two terms, and Kris Tierney will complete his second term shortly. Neither Mary Bowser nor Kris Tierney can be considered as candidates for the chair position. Nominations should be submitted to Diann by November 17, and at the December 17 meeting, the members will vote for a new chair.

With the sale of Randy Jones’s home, Rosemont, complete, he will be leaving the area and announced that his resignation will be effective at the end of this meeting.

Jacox mentioned that a majority of commission members’ terms have expired. She does not want to see a wholesale turnover, so is working to stagger new appointments so that replacements do not occur all at once.

Everyone attending the meeting then watched a 45-minute film, parts of which were taken from Ken Burns’ film, *The National Parks: This is America*. The idea was to present an overview of the great variety of sites that are preserved within the National Park System. This version can be shown to anyone after the presentation on PBS of the six-part series beginning September 27, 2009.

#### New Business

Randy Jones thanked everyone for doing more as a group than they could have done as individual organizations, and said how he had enjoyed being a member of the commission.

Suzanne Chilson announced that the annual reenactment will take place October 17–18, 2009. A joint ticket will give admission to the events and Belle Grove. About 5,500 reenactors are expected.

Elizabeth McClung mentioned that a shuttle bus will be operating for the two-day event. Living history demonstrations, an outdoor encampment, and display of cavalry equipment will be Belle Grove's contributions to the weekend.

It was announced that Shenandoah County is pursuing several programs for the Civil War Sesquicentennial: a Confederate loop trail at Mount Jackson, trail signs, and a driving tour of a variety of sites. Two grants are helping fund these programs.

Patrick Farris announced that Warren County's annual Festival of Leaves will take place October 10, 2009.

Elizabeth McClung announced that on November 7–8, 2009, Belle Grove will have an antiques appraisal, David Powers will speak on local material culture, and there will be a talk about collecting Strasburg pottery.

Belle Grove's annual meeting will take place November 22, 2009. Maral Kalbian and Margaret Peters will present a program on Harmony Hall.

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation has received a grant for developing trails related to the battlefield but outside the park boundary.

#### Next Meeting

The commission will meet at the Warren County Government center December 17, 2009, at 8:30 a.m.

Chair Kris Tierney adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

#### Handouts

1. Agenda
2. GMP Status Update
3. Meeting Notes from September