

**Minutes of the Mingo Swamp Friends Meeting  
January 15, 2013**

The Mingo Swamp Friends Meeting was called to order on January 15, 2013 by Sharon Tuschoff in the conference room of the administration building at 6:40 pm at Mingo National Wildlife Refuge at Puxico, Mo.

**ATTENDANCE**

Nine members and three staff were in attendance:

Sharon Tuschoff	Dan Holloway
Bruce Beck	Doug Holloway
Gary Beacham	Ben Mense, Refuge Manager
Bill Brennan	Lindsey Landowski, Assistant Refuge Manager
Gretchen Pendley	Peter Rea, Visitors Services Park Ranger
Brad Watkins	
Ray Greenlee	

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Minutes of October board meeting were read by Bruce Beck. Motion to approve made by Gary Beacham. Second by Brad Watkins. Passed.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Gary Beacham read the treasurer's report. Since the October meeting there have been no expenditures and \$370.00 in receipts, leaving an account balance of \$9,262.39 as of 1-14-13. Motion to approve made by Bruce. Second by Bill Brennan. Passed. The report is attached.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1) **Pavestones** – Sharon said that so far only seven applications have been submitted, though several more are promised. A minimum of 20 applications are required for the engraving to be done. Ben said that a favorable location by the overlook has been selected to place the pavestones. It was noted that the Mingo Swamp Friends membership brochure has both a membership form and a donation form. We should encourage visitors and friends to become members and to donate to Mingo Swamp Friends. There are plenty of brochures in a closet in the administrative building.
- 2) **Photo Club Report** – None given since Aaron Horrell was absent. Bruce said he would talk to Aaron.
- 3) **Mingo Swamp Friends Website and Facebook Page** – Brad Watkins gave a report on improvements to the Mingo Swamp Friends website that he is working on with Lindsey. They are pleased with the changes and recommend the members check the site and make any suggestions for improvement. We are encouraged to publicize the website and the Facebook pages of both the Mingo Swamp Friends and the Mingo Refuge. The Mingo Refuge Facebook page has about 1,700 friends. The Friends of Mingo Facebook page has 262 members.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bruce was asked to present his suggested changes to the Mingo Swamp Friends bylaws. He said that he thought that it would be more effective if he could e-mail both the original bylaws which are in force currently and the new recommended bylaws to the board members so that they read both and consider them more carefully before the April Board meeting. The board can at that time make any changes before possibly recommending new bylaws for a vote by the full membership at the August annual meeting.

**Motion** by Watkins to table the matter until the next board meeting. Second by Gretchen. Motion passed. Bruce will mail copies of the old and the proposed bylaws to board members in the near future.

He will also check on whether the new bylaws will need to be reviewed by an attorney and whether they meet the requirements of the Missouri Department of Revenue.

## **STAFF UPDATES**

**Lindsey Landowski** presented a revised entry form for the photo contest that includes a link to the copyright release form required by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for all entries. There was discussion and final agreement to have only one Best of Show award, and the possibility of providing gift certificates for winners in the various categories. The Photo Club has the prerogative to act on these suggestions.

**Peter Rea** reported the following items:

**Bookstore Committee** (Regina Mense, Gretchen Pendley and Bruce Beck) accompanied Peter Rae on a visit to the MO Dept. of Conservation Nature Center in Cape Girardeau in November to learn how we might better manage our own bookstore. The committee met again last week and decided to order embroidered caps and screen-printed t-shirts to be available for sale at Eagle Day at Mingo February 2. Items not sold that weekend will be available for the Open House when the bookstore opens in the summer. We have on hand about 100 each of Mingo wood duck pins, and pewter-style refrigerator magnets and key chains.

Gretchen has developed an Excel spreadsheet of items, vendors and prices of items that we might want to order later. An application has been submitted for an "Every Day" grant of \$5,000 to be used to purchase bookstore items. The results should be announced in February.

**Eagle Days.** Mingo Swamp Friends volunteers will be needed for Eagle Days – on Feb. 1 to assist with the schoolchildren and with MDC personnel and other tasks. He said that the Missouri Department of Conservation will provide food for the volunteers' lunches at Eagle Days and asked if the Mingo Swamp Friends would provide the drinks.

**Motion** made by Watkins that Mingo Swamp Friends provide \$100 for drinks for the volunteers and staff working at Eagle Days. Second by Dan Holloway. Passed unanimously. Peter will buy the items.

**Motion** by Beck to give a key chain, refrigerator magnet or wood duck pin to each new or renewing member, beginning in August. Second by Gretchen. Passed unanimously.

**Volunteer Hour Reporting.** Peter reminded members to keep their volunteer hours up-to-date. A timesheet was provided to members last year.

**Ben Mense** reported on the progress of the building construction. Photos of the progress are being posted on the Mingo Facebook page. Construction may be completed in June, but the dioramas will have yet to be installed and the staff and supplies moved into the new building.

Many volunteers will be needed once the new visitors center opens – for greeting, manning the bookstore and the front desk, helping with trail maintenance, duck counts, and more. Bill Brennan is working on a PowerPoint presentation that can be given to area service clubs to invite them to provide volunteers.

Mense answered questions about improvements on the road around the refuge. Paved areas will be repaved. Two bridges will be replaced and culvert pipes will be replaced with concrete box structures. The road will be closed much of the year, possibly with sections open as permissible. The road along Ditch 6 will be closed to the public. The final route will be the old 22-mile route familiar to many from years past.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 6:30 pm in the maintenance shop.

Ben will give a walk-through of the new visitors center for board members at 5:30 pm.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Brad to adjourn. Second by Gary. Motion passed. Adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Bruce Beck, Secretary