

FRIENDS OF CAMILLUS PARK

FEBRUARY 28, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Mary Flynn opened the meeting welcoming members to the meeting.

No corrections or changes were made to the Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2013. Mary Luber and Joe Flynn motioned to approve the minutes.

Our first clean up day on October 28, 2013 was a success. Unfortunately, due to Parks and Rec staffing issues and the coming of Winter, all the previous collected piles in the Forest have not been cleared away. Once Summer help arrives for the Park's Dept, they will focus on more of the Forest Clean up started in October, and on the April 2013 Clean Up Day.

The next Park Clean Up Day has been scheduled for **April 21, 2013**, with a "rain date" to be determined. More specific details to follow.

The goal of this Spring Clean Up Day is to focus on cleaning trash and debris from around the perimeter of the Forest, as well as in the picnic area. The goal is always to keep the Forest as natural as possible, therefore at this time, only these 2 areas will be the focus of the clean up.

Flyers will be delivered to the Neighbors bordering the Park on April 6th-7th. The purpose of the hand out is to keep people informed of what is going on, as well as inviting participation in the Clean Up Day. Volunteers are needed to deliver the flyers, and Mary Flynn will ask Dave Callahan, the 6th Ward Councilor, to draft the flyer.

Brainstorming was done as to potential future events to be held in the Park: ie snowshoeing, tapping maple trees, tree identification, bird identification.

New Business: Eric Bacon, Director of Parks and Rec is continuing to look into Grants for the Revitalization project

Mary Flynn has started the process to apply for a Not for Profit status for the Friends of Camillus Park project. There are certain Grants specifically designated for Not for Profit organization, which may increase our chances

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of obtaining funds. Mary Anne Green-Cody, Attorney at Law and CPA with Mackenzie Hughes Law Firm has agreed to assist, gratis, with the application process for the Not for Profit (NFP) status, but there could be incidental expenses associated with this process. Additional funds may be needed to complete the process of the Not for Profit status, and we will need to discuss how funds will be obtained. Each year Income Tax will need to be filed once the NFP status has been obtained. Application for the NFP status just need to be in process, not obtained, in order to apply for Grants. The Grants we would be applying for would be for the Forest area only.

The group discussed ways of getting more interest in the Revitalization project. Some ideas discussed: articles in the Camillus Magazine and Neighbors West.

Eric Bacon and Mary Flynn will meet with Jessi Lyons and Kristina Ferrare March 8, 2013. Jessi and Kristina are from The Natural Resources Programs at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. They are willing to assist us in creating natural trails in the Forest, tree identification and possibly setting up a Sentinel Tree project.

Mary Luber will again reach out to her media contacts about continuing to get the word out about the Camillus Park Revitalization Project.

The process for change and improvement for the benefit of the Forest is slow, but if we keep talking and working on the Revitalization project, we will continue to move ahead.

Our NEXT MEETING is planned for Thursday MARCH 28, 2013 at 7pm, large meeting room at Town Hall. ALL ARE WELCOME!

L. Gleason