

FFINS August Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2016 6:00pm

Attendees: Dave Hensen, Konstantine Rountos, Waveney Bowman, Malcolm Bowman, Sarah Schaefer, Joe DeVincent, Peter Maust, Patti Vertullo, Kelly Fellner, Frank Antonawich, Regina Casale

1. Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP) Project- Presentation by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
 - a. Tuesday, September 27th 6-8pm:
Southampton Campus - Stony brook University Chancellors Hall, Kanas Lobby 239 Montauk Highway Southampton, NY 11968
 - b. Wednesday, September 28th 6-8pm:
Montauk Playhouse 240 Edgemere Street Montauk, NY 11954
2. Treasurers Report
 - a. Approximately \$6350 in account and decreasing
3. NPS Challenge Cost Share Program-National Park Service and Outdoor Foundation
 - a. Could be a source of funding trips to Fire Island in the future.
 - b. Multiple programs for funding are available with a focus on recreation. Each project works to introduce Americans to the national parks, national trails, and wild and scenic rivers. Projects include engaging people in active healthy outdoor recreation or in conservation efforts that strengthen our natural and cultural heritage.
 - c. Outdoor National Campus Challenge: SBU and SJC student chapters can log outdoor activities and enter the campus outdoor challenge.
4. Event Updates:
 - a. Stony Brook University Orientation Field Trip- Sunday, September 11th
 - i. Destination: Sailor's Haven
 - ii. Food: Wisdom and Bliss provided food at Don Hester's house in Cherry Grove. Snacks were provided by FFINS at the Sailors Haven Visitors Center.
 - iii. Activities: Walk to Don Hester's beach house in Cherry Grove, NPS rangers were available for two time slots for beach seining and a guided walk through the Sunken Forest. Lifeguards were available for swimming.
 - iv. Costs: Ferry costs \$13/person. Charged \$20/person for bus, ferry and food. SBU paid for one of two buses to transport from SBU to ferry terminal with FFINS donation.
 - v. Attendees: Opened trip up to all international students after there was a small response opening it up to only first year international students. Closed ticket sales on Friday, 9/9/16 at 5pm.
 - vi. Suggestions for next year:

1. Get student attendee head count and ticket money early to reduce the amount of students who do not show up.
2. Applied for external funding: NPS Challenge Grant Program- award notification expected in October.

b. Saint Joseph's College Day- Sunday, August 28th

- i. Cost: Ferry tickets to Watch Hill- \$17/person- National Park Service is paid for ferry tickets.
- ii. Attendees: 120 RSVP'd and Approximately 90 people showed up.
- iii. Positive response from all who attended.
- iv. Suggestions for next year:
 1. Schedule activities better around ferry schedule and times people will want to leave.
 2. Hold announcements in the beginning instead of the end (on ferry to Watch Hill?)
 3. Overflow parking at NPS Maintenance Area?
 4. North Fork bus system, used by SJC, can be used a shuttle from SJC to Watch Hill.

c. Last Alive After Five for 2016- Thursday, August 18th 5:00-9:00pm

- i. FFINS gives a big thank you to Renee Kantro for manning the tables all summer.
- ii. Three organizations were represented at one table- Paumanok Veterinary Hospital, Patchogue Rotary, and FFINS.
- iii. Suggestions for next year:
 1. Designate a FFINS representative for FFINS table- student chapter can man the table.
 2. Keep FFINS and FINPS tables spread apart to reach the most of the public.

5. Future Events:

- a. " Car Free Day" September 22nd- Suffolk County Community College Ammerman Campus. Suffolk County Steve Bellone invites you to participate.
- b. National Public Lands Day- September 24th –Pollinator Garden Planting and cleanup at Watch Hill Ferry Terminal.
- c. Patchogue River Cleanup- Sunday, October 16th 10am- 3pm
 - i. Educational opportunity for schools to get local high schools involved in water and marine resources.
 - ii. Should invite local churches and schools to attend.
 - iii. Joe DeVincent will send out event flyer to Sayville Public schools and Patti Vertullo will send out to William Floyd Public Schools.
- d. Christmas Boat Parade- Sunday, November 20th 5-7pm
- e. Educator Workshops: Invite educators you know and people who are soon to be educators.

- i. Seashore Dynamics- October 15th, 12:30pm- 4:30pm, Wilderness Visitors Center, Fire Island
- ii. Educators Open House- November 8th, 10am-2pm, Patchogue Watch Hill Ferry Terminal

6. Possible New Events:

Play for Peace: Suggested by Regina Casale. Organization brings together children, youth and organizations from communities in conflict, using cooperative play to create laughter, compassion and peace. Soccer games between community teams. Held on August 2nd this year.

- i. FFINS could have a table next year: \$10 for a table at the event.
- ii. Potential to make connections with local Patchogue community members and start a dialogue for a FFINS/ community partnership.
- iii. Last year Play for Peace donated \$2,000 to the Patchogue Head Start early education program.

Beach Soccer Event: Cosmos could be invited to play at Smith Point Park with a picnic at the breach.

7. Watch Hill Ferry Terminal Trivia Slide Show:

- a. Monitor is up!
- b. Check if there is recognition for Patchogue Rotary Club.
- c. Positive feedback on it so far.

8. Transportation meeting with Peter Sephton

- a. Retired CEO of public bus company in England and Trustee of Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG).
- b. Discuss alternatives to car travel to Fire Island access points.
- c. Suggested meeting date/time: October 7th at 4pm at SoMAS.

9. Things to focus on in the future:

- a. William Floyd Estate FFINS liaison- Extensive Archive
 - i. Ideas: Public History Minor students at SJC to be liaison.
 - ii. History tour could be attractive to younger students. Tour could focus on social and political landscape during the U.S. Declaration of Independence signing.
 - iii. William Floyd Library could team up with Longwood Public Schools to provide liaisons.
 - iv. Action: Create workgroup for further discussion: Peter Maust, Kelly Fellner, William Floyd Library and Longwood Public Schools.
- b. Rotary Fun Day
 - i. Ideas: Sayville Rotary children/family event
 - ii. Action: Joe DeVincent will plan event. State Park land use permits can be acquired to hold event.
- c. Equestrian Event at Wilderness Visitors Center or William Floyd Estate:
 - i. Equestrian events are not aligned with FINPS management plan. William Floyd Estate could be an option.

- ii. Action: Write a proposal for the event. Dave will look into working with a riding group who could provide staff and maintenance for the riding area. Can we stable the horses on site?
- d. Appalachian Mountain Club
 - i. Increase FFINS members and club awareness.
 - ii. Next year we can create a presentation to increase awareness about NPS and FFINS in western Fire Island communities.
- e. Marcelo Lucero Unity Tour- Chair: Regina Casale
 - i. Applied to NPS Challenge Grant Program for funding- funding not yet awarded (expected notification in October).
 - ii. Tour includes a trip to Fire Island and dinner with a small group of the local Hispanic community leaders to initiate the conversation. A second trip will be planned to Fire Island open to the larger Hispanic community.

10. Things to continue:

- a. SBU Orientation Trip for International Students
- b. SJC Day
- c. Alive After Five
- d. Christmas Boat Parade- Sunday before Thanksgiving, set up green screen photography to fundraise (Christmas Boat Parade photo background)
- e. Support of Biannual Science Conference
- f. VIP tour for incoming SBU and SJC FFINS leaders

11. Other business:

- a. Does the cost of park entrance deter people from visiting National Parks during daytime hours?
- b. Translate FFINS brochure/ FINPS brochures into Spanish. Get a volunteer Longwood High School/ College student to translate brochures for ferry terminals.
- c. Kelly will look into raffling at Christmas Boat Parade.