

**Friends of Women's Rights National Historical Park
Finger Lakes Chapter Executive Committee**

February 7, 2009

Minutes

Members Present: Adriene Emmo (President), Rick Kollins, Sam Dickieson, Harlene Gilbert, Fran Wenderlich.

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. **The minutes** of the December 6 executive committee meeting were approved.

2. Correspondence

Copies of letters to the editor of the Finger Lakes Times about the Park and our response were distributed (attached).

3. Treasurer's Report

Sam Dickieson's report showed a bank balance of \$729.35. The report was accepted.

4. Park Report

Lee Werst submitted the following written report:

- The first intern under the Nan Johnson Legacy Fund will be starting at the park this week. Her name is Mary Harris. She is a sophomore at Hobart and William Smith. This semester she will work in the Visitor Center and also on a Junior Rangers project for the interpretation division.
- Women's History Month - Stanton House opens March 7, Linda Frank will staff the house that weekend as a sort of open house. That day a temporary exhibit, two panels on Catherine Payne Blaine, created by the Washington State Historical Society, will also open in the Visitor Center. Special programs staff and local academics will take place in the theater on March 14, 21, and 28.
- Memorial Day Weekend - Dr. Margaret Washington of Cornell will give a lecture and book signing on her new book "Sojourner Truth's America" at the M'Clintock House. We are also looking into a living history program on Sojourner Truth that day.
- July 18, 19 & 20 - A tentative schedule is in the Friends mailbox at the Visitor Center, but there will be changes and added details to it. Re the procession, we will have to go through the permit process since this is not a Park sanctioned event. Last year we did our best to accommodate, but this year will be harder. We will have to charge for the costs of overtime for staff to monitor the event on Park property in compliance with NPS policy. Also, due to the rehabilitation of the Chapel and the construction zone it will create, the park will not grant a permit for any activity to take place in the Chapel or Declaration Park. Since any permitted activity may not interfere with park operations the Visitor Center cannot be used. Perhaps ending in the Women's Interfaith Institute would be a possibility?

5. National Board Report

The following was reported in the minutes of the National Board meeting of January 7, 2009:

- Work on the Wesleyan Chapel is going as scheduled, planning to resume in the spring. There is money to enclose the chapel and protect the interior but no money as yet for exhibits inside the chapel.
- The Senate has introduced the Harriet Tubman property in Auburn as a National Historical Park. They have authorized it but not appropriated any money for it.
- The bill for the Women's Rights History Project Act passed in the Senate as part of the large public lands omnibus bill and now has to go before the House.
- The Nan Johnson Legacy Project –The Park has received acceptance for participation in the summer 2009 Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program. A condition of the participation is that the Park have \$5531 in its contribution account before next steps in securing the intern can be taken. This program is of special benefit to the Park, because the NPS matches the \$5531 so that the Park receives over \$11,000 worth of benefit from the internship. The Nan Johnson Legacy Project has received \$2500 of the \$10,000 Alesi Grant funds from the NYS Education Department. The Friends Board voted to advance \$3031 toward the internship program. As soon as we have the paperwork indicating that Friends spent the money for an intern (or interns) for the Park, the Friends general operating account will be reimbursed for the \$3031 advance.

There was discussion about how the interns and volunteers at the Park are being used and evaluated, and it was suggested that a management plan be developed by Park staff. It was decided to refer this matter to Tina Orcutt through President Marilyn Tedeschi.

Motion: "that the executive committee of the Nan Johnson Legacy Fund receive protocols and expectations of the Park interns from Park staff." (Wenderlich-Gilbert) Passed.

6. Membership Drive 2009

Adriene reported that requests for donations went out to more than 500 Friends members and 200 potential members, and almost \$1,000 was collected in the first week of the drive.

7. Planning for 2009

Adriene outlined the following priorities and activities for 2009:

- Convention Days July 17-19.
- Reorganization of the National Board and the role of our chapter.
- Support of Park programs, including fund-raising for the Children's Corner and transportation subsidies for student visits to the Park.
- Partnering with other organizations promoting women's rights and women's history, such as the National Women's Hall of Fame induction and One Voice Alliance's "All-Media Matrix."
- Continuation of our Tourism and Marketing project.
- Annual meeting in November.

8. Marketing and Tourism

Fran Wenderlich reported that we have received a new contract from the Geneva Chamber of Commerce for rack card distribution at the Chamber, Waterloo Premium Outlets, and Warner's, Pembroke and Petro Thruway service centers. We also have contracts with the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance and Yankee Doodle Distributors.

Fran also mentioned a program of the Seneca County Division of Human Services-Workforce Development, which involves training in travel and tourism, and which may be of interest to us. Fran will obtain more information for our next meeting.

9. Other Business

- Marilyn Tedeschi gave a eulogy at Gretchen Stringer's funeral in Buffalo on January 10.
- Sympathies have been sent to Past President Connie Morse on the passing of her grandson and well wishes sent to Helen Kirker, who is recovering from a broken hip.
- Dorothy and Bob Fenton will be retiring from the Park at the end of the month. Friends will send a donation to the Children's Corner project in their honor.
- Copies of a news story from the Canandaigua Daily Messenger about the progress of the 1816 Quaker Meetinghouse restoration in Farmington were distributed. Friends Judy Wellman and Helen Kirker head up this project.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Future Meetings:

March 7
April 4
May 2
June 6

Rick Kollins,
Chapter Secretary