

Friends of Midway State Park

Board of Directors Meeting

Summary of October 8, 2011 – Jamestown Bowling Company

Attending: Pat Locke, Bill Locke, Bob Reynolds, Sharon Bartram, Priscilla Kehoe, Walt Kehoe, Kathie McCarthy, and Bob Wooler. Absent: Matt Kraft

Bob Wooler opened the meeting at 4:00 pm by asking Bill and Pat Locke to talk about the Pony Tractor that the Friends acquired at the Cruise-In event on Labor Day at the park. Ken Hammond had brought the restored tractor which was used as a ride at the park in 1956-57 to the Cruise-In. This beautifully restored tractor will be housed in a prime location in the Midway Park museum.

Bob went on to describe the delay on the part of the State of New York in doing the renovation of the carousel roundhouse. This will cause the carousel to be outside next summer, thereby delaying the painting of the rounding boards we have already raised money for. It also calls into question the nature of the partnership projects we undertake with the state because the promises we make to donors are subject to change or delay due to state budget issues, emergencies, changing priorities, or simply politics.

Much of the rest of the meeting was spent in general discussion about how we can undertake meaningful projects that we have total or reasonable control over so as not to disappoint donors and lose credibility. The following suggestions were made:

- Work with Susan DiVincenzo to restore one carousel horse this winter so that when it is on display next year it will generate sponsorships of additional horses.
- Inquire as to whether the Friends can manage the entire horse restoration project (subject to state and historical accuracy guidelines).
- Look into the feasibility of taking on the Kiddie Boat restoration project for which a foundation is being poured this fall.
- Pursue the sponsorship of various rides and attractions for which we know of natural business connections in the area.
- Look for a grant opportunity to partner with art, science, engineering, and design students in the redesign of the miniature golf holes.

The consensus of the discussion was that the state would undertake more of the infrastructure and heavy construction elements of projects while the Friends would support design, finish work, and painting. This conceptual split will be proposed to Midway by Bob Wooler. He also intends to go to the regional Friends of Park meeting at Letchworth on October 25 to see how this issue is resolved in other parks and sites.

There was some discussion of replenishing polo shirts and perhaps printing fleeces or sweatshirts for the winter. Walt will investigate logistics and prices and be in touch with details. This printed wear will be marketed for Christmas starting in November, and in December with the 501c3 in hand we will market new 2012 memberships.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.