

MINUTES

FINAL DRAFT

Meeting: Friends of Schoodic and Schoodic Education Adventure Program

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2005

1:30-3:30 p.m.

Location: SEA classrooms at the Schoodic Campus

Attendees: Jim McKenna, Coordinator, SERC
Cynthia Ocel, Park Service Education Coordinator
Deborah Wade, Chief Interpreter, Park Service
Kate Petrie, Director, SEA Program
Fran Rhodes, Friends of Schoodic

Purpose of Meeting: The meeting was called by Fran Rhodes for the purpose of establishing and clarifying the FOS activities which support the Schoodic Education Programs.

I. POTENTIAL USES OF DONATED FUNDS

Jim, Kate, Deb and Cynthia had previously met and discussed appropriate ways for the use of funds which will most likely be donated to the SEA program. The FIRST PRIORITY is for such funds to be used to support the involvement of college-level student interns as teaching assistants in the SEA program. These students would currently be enrolled at the University of Maine and other post-secondary institutions and majoring in Elementary/Secondary Education, Science Education or other related fields with a requirement to fulfill some type of pre-professional field experience before graduation. The SEA program is an ideal setting for providing such a field experience and donated funds would be utilized to pay for room, board and materials for the teaching assistants.

The SECOND PRIORITY for the use of donated funds is for any purpose which will “grow the program”. Under no circumstances will donated funds be used to “supplant” already existing activities or functions within the

current SEA program. Also, grants and donations would not replace the already existing sources of revenue for the SEA program from local school districts and the Park Service.

To create positive and continuing professional relationships with the school districts which are, or possibly will, participate in the SEA program, Jim McKenna will invite all of the local School Superintendents for a meeting at the Schoodic SEA campus. This meeting will ideally take place in Fall, 2005 and include a tour of the campus as well as discussions with the Superintendents regarding what ideas they have for financial support as well as expansion of the SEA program.

II. PRIORITIZED SEA EQUIPMENT LIST

Jim, Kate, Deb and Cynthia have compiled a prioritized SEA equipment list which will be used by Friends of Schoodic to solicit (with FOA approval) donations in the form of materials and supplies for the SEA program. The list contains prioritized items for all SERC programs (SEA, Artists-in-Residence, Resource Acadia Seminars). This list will be shared with entities such as Jackson Labs and other school/science supply firms when and where the potential exists for donations of materials and supplies. A copy of this prioritized SEA Equipment List is attached to these minutes.

III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOS VOLUNTEERS IN THE SEA PROGRAM

The following summary presents the highlights of this discussion:

- A. FOS volunteers will not be working directly with students, but would be assigned to various clerical and supportive tasks, i.e., making name tags, filing, labeling, etc.
- B. FOS volunteers will be invited to participate in a training session before the SEA sessions begin in the fall.
- C. FOS volunteers must be willing to serve on a regularly scheduled basis for the duration of the three-month program, initially on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

D. On a designated day in August prior to the beginning of the Fall SEA class sessions, FOS volunteers will be asked to assist with various cleaning and set-up tasks.

IV. POSSIBLE SPRING SEA SESSIONS

There are no detailed plans in place for SEA spring sessions at this time. Jim, Kate, Deb and Cynthia want to solidify the Fall program first and then consider possible expansion to a Spring session. Also, the renovated dormitories on the Schoodic campus will come on line within the next two years, thereby allowing more student boarding space for the expansion of the SEA program.

V. GUIDELINES FOR FOS/SERC EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Fran Rhodes suggested that a few basic working guidelines should be developed as SERC and FOS begin to work together in support of SERC education programs. After considerable discussion, the following initial guidelines were developed:

A. SERC education programs are, first and foremost, programs of the National Park Service and must be conducted in accordance with NPS regulations and requirements.

B. Current SERC education programs consist of three components:

1. Schoodic Education Adventure Program (Middle School)
2. Artists-In-Residence Program
3. Resource Acadia Seminar Programs

C. Grants and donations must be used to “supplement”, not “supplant” sources of revenue or expenditures within the existing programs.

D. All fund-raising activities and solicitations undertaken by Friends of Schoodic on behalf of the SERC programs must have prior approval of Friends of Acadia.

E. To maintain clear lines of communication, a single contact person is designated within SEA and FOS for all SERC matters. At present, the SERC contact is Jim McKenna and the FOS contact is Fran Rhodes.

VI. JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

It was stated at the meeting that the National Park Service Foundation is issuing grants to NPS educational centers across the nation. The Friends of Acadia is receiving this grant with a stipulation that the grant be matched by local fund-raising. The grant is for a total of \$15,000 (\$7500 from the NPS Foundation and \$7500 from local sources). NPS currently operates a JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM for 3rd grade students on MDI. With the help of this grant, NPS will expand this program to the Schoodic campus. The program is designed to stimulate awareness in young children about national park resources through a combination of Spring classroom visits by park personnel, followed by a visit to the park by 3rd grade classes. All local school districts would be invited to participate in the program at the Schoodic campus.

Ideas for possible fund-raising by FOS were discussed. The most appealing suggestion was for FOS to sponsor a "March for Parks" event on the Loop Road on Schoodic Point in August, 2005. This would be in the nature of a "walk-a-thon" where local communities would be invited to participate in this "March for Parks" with participants soliciting donations from local organizations, individuals and business firms. All proceeds would go toward the matching grant (\$7500) for the Junior Ranger Program at Schoodic. Fran Rhodes will communicate with FOA regarding the feasibility of holding this type of fund-raiser on Schoodic. She will also present this idea to Friends of Schoodic at their meeting on May 11, 2005.

In order to secure this grant from the National Parks Foundation, the matching funds must be raised by October 28, 2005. Deb Wade, Chief Interpreter for Acadia National Park, is the contact person for information about the Junior Ranger Program.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

A. Fran Rhodes suggested that Gary and Rosemary Levin be invited to attend a special meeting with Jim, Deb, Cynthia and Kate to discuss items specific to the Artists-In-Residence program. Gary and Rosemary have expressed a desire to work in a supportive way with the A-I-R Program and it was agreed that a meeting to discuss specific issues related to the A-I-R Program would be useful. That meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2005 in the SERC classrooms.

B. Jim McKenna stated that efforts are underway to translate and share the results of park service research to a wider clientele through the Resource Acadia Seminar Program.

C. Jim McKenna (SERC Coordinator) and Dennis O'Brien (Acadia Partners) will be holding meetings with local Town Selectmen and School Boards within the coming year for the purpose of sharing information about SERC and also generating ideas from these local groups about programs and activities which they would like to see undertaken at the SERC campus.

D. In response to a request from FOS, SERC staff have prepared a financial summary of the SEA and A-I-R programs. A copy of that financial summary is attached to these minutes. This information will be used as needed for fund-raising and solicitation activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances J. Rhodes

Distribution: Friends of Schoodic Steering Committee (5-11-05)