



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove
National Historical Park

P.O. Box 700
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Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP

Park Advisory Commission Meeting Agenda

March 17, 2011
Middletown Town Hall
Middletown, Virginia

1. General Introductions
2. Review of Minutes from December 16, 2010.
3. Updates and Status Reports
 - Upcoming FAC meetings
 - FAC Meeting Schedule 2011/2012
4. *Interim Interpretive Plan for Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP.*
Upcoming 2011 Visitor Season at CEBE
Eric Campbell, NPS.
5. NPS Signage Program & Discussion.
Robert H. Clark, NPS Sign Program Manager, Harpers Ferry Center.
6. Old Business
7. New Business



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Cedar Creek & Belle Grove NHP Park Advisory Commission Meetings 2010-2011

All meetings begin at 8:30 am.

All meetings are open to the General Public

- September 16, 2010: Warren County Government Center
- December 16, 2010: Strasburg Town Hall
- March 17, 2011: Middletown Town Hall
- June 16, 2011: Warren County Government Center

Warren County Government Center
220 North Commerce Avenue
Front Royal, VA

Strasburg Town Hall Council Chambers
174 East King Street
Strasburg, VA

Middletown Town Hall Council Chambers
7875 Church Street
Middletown, VA

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

*Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park
Federal Advisory Commission Meeting*

December 16, 2010

Strasburg Town Hall
Strasburg, Virginia

- I) General Introductions
- II) Review of Minutes from June 17, 2010, and from September 16, 2010
- III) Updates and Status Reports
 - General Management Plan
 - New Positions
 - Office Move
- IV) Presentation and discussion: Shannon Kettering, ASLA, AICP: *Interim Interpretive Plan for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP*
- V) Old Business
- VI) New Business

Meeting Notes

Commission members in attendance: John Adamson, Belle Grove; Mary Bowser, private landowner; Carl Bernhards, Middletown; Patrick Farris, Warren County, chair; Stanley M. Hirschberg, Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation; Diann Jacox, Designated Federal Official (DFO); Eric Lawrence, Frederick County; Sarah Mauck, Strasburg; Rob Nieweg, National Trust; and Pam Sheets, Shenandoah County.

Commission members absent: Nick Picerno, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; and Jim Smalls, U.S. Forest Service

Others in attendance: Joanne Blacoe, NPS Northeast Regional Office; Eric Campbell, NPS; Fay Goolrich, ECOS Environmental Design; Bob Grogg, NPS volunteer; Tonia Horton, NPS; Shannon Kettering, ECOS Environmental Design; Elizabeth McClung, Belle Grove; Cassandra Moore, NPS; Peggy Scherbaum, NPS, Harpers Ferry Center; and Elizabeth Stern, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

Chair Patrick Farris opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. Everyone in the room gave their name and affiliation. With a quorum present the commissioners approved the meeting notes from both June 17, 2010, and September 16, 2010.

Diann Jacox said that the original idea had been to issue a press release to accompany the release of the GMP. Plans, however, went awry, and the GMPs were mailed before the park was notified, so no press release was issued. Jacox congratulated everyone on having reached this milestone in the park's development. She also said that the GMP becomes official once the Record of Decision (ROD) is signed, and that is yet to happen. She expressed her desire to have the regional director travel to the park once the ROD is ready to be issued.

Jacox introduced Cassandra Moore, the new administrative assistant. She also announced that a facilities manager has been hired. He will be reporting for work January 3, 2011

Five staff persons will be moving to the 8693 Valley Pike property soon. Furniture has been ordered and delivery is expected soon. The lease on the Middletown office expires August 2011, and the office will be retained until that date. The park has not determined whether it will continue to staff the Middletown office until August 2011. The park also plans to open an interim visitor contact station, and the Middletown office may be one of several spaces considered for that purpose. Leasing is done through a competitive bidding process, and the park is working with the General Services Administration (GSA) to solicit competitive bids for space for an interim visitor contact station.

Shannon Kettering and Fay Goolrick then took the floor to report on their work on the interim interpretive plan since the commissioners' last quarterly meeting. They reported several observations since compiling suggestions and analyzing the content.

- American Indians should not be lumped in with natural history or archeology; they should be interpreted as part of the colonial settlement theme. For too long Indians have been included within natural history and the tribes have chafed at this categorization.
- Because the NPS wants to move on getting the park operational, the focus is on the interpretive programs and interpretive media with other needs being addressed as soon as possible thereafter.
- The partners have differing needs and levels of expertise in interpretation.
- The NPS does resource-based interpretation keyed to locations, which is important in preparing the plan. What locations are suitable for interpretation?
 - Interim visitor center
 - Belle Grove
 - Cedar Creek headquarters
 - Hupp's Hill
 - Winchester-Frederick County visitor center
 - Front Royal visitor center
 - Strasburg museum

- Fisher's Hill
- Middletown town hall
- Heater house
- Bowman-Hite property
- Long Meadow
- Valley Pike
- Bowman's Mill road
- Stickley property
- Vermont monument
- New York monument
- Ramseur monument
- Harmony Hall
- Bowman's fort
- Nineteenth corps entrenchments
- End of Sheridan's ride
- Middletown cemetery
- Meadow Mills road
- Miller house
- Wayside Inn
- St. Thomas Chapel

Having listed all these sites as possibilities, the commissioners narrowed the list down to the five sites that would provide the best opportunities for interpretation:

- Interim visitor center
- Belle Grove
- Cedar Creek headquarters
- Heater house
- Valley Pike

Kettering and Goolrick closed by saying that interpretation is about universals, and that this concept would be their guiding theme as they take the information about locations, put it with the themes talked about in the September meeting, and prepare the recommendations document.

Old Business

Farris reminded anyone who had not signed in, to do so.

New Business

Sarah Mauck wants to meet with the NPS and Belle Grove about the website that is going up January 15, 2011.

Carl Bernhards reported that the feasibility study for the water line from Strasburg to Middletown is not encouraging. Nevertheless he wants to have some discussion to see if there is a way that this could work. There are three alternate routes to consider for the possible 5.2-mile length of the project.

Patrick Farris reported that he is teaching a course -- Anthropology of the Shenandoah Valley – and he plans to bring student groups to the park in the coming months.

Beth Stern commented on the updating work for the Frederick County Comprehensive Plan. Public hearings will take place in February and March. The county does not get into viewshed considerations, but they will take comments until January 5, 2011, from the website. Eric Lawrence will send a link to all commissioners so that they can see the draft document.

Elizabeth McClung suggested that everyone bring family and friends to Belle Grove between now and December 23, 2010. The house will also be open December 23–30, 2010.

The Key Partners and NPS staff will meet with Kettering and Goolrick at the Valley Pike offices at 1:15 p.m.

Chair Patrick Farris adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

The next meeting will be at the Middletown town hall, March 17, 2011, at 8:30 a.m.

Handouts

- FAC Meeting Agenda for December 16, 2010
- Meeting Notes from June 17, 2010
- Meeting Notes from September 16, 2010
- FAC Meeting Schedule 2010-2011
- Meeting Agenda for Interim Interpretive Plan Pre-Design Charette
- Interim Interpretive Plan Pre-Design Charette handout