

## Friends of Tettegouche State Park

### REPORT ON ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS 9/2019 - 8/2020

1. **ORGANIZATION:** Formally establishing a new organization requires attention to a number of administrative and regulatory tasks. Following are many of the organizational tasks completed by the board and officers since last September's annual meeting.
  - The Board of Directors elected the following Officers: Jill Beim, President; Jean Helgesen, Vice-President; Morris Manning, Secretary; Cindy Tackett, Vice-President.
  - Established signers for The Lake Bank checking account.
  - Silver Bay P.O. Box 135 was rented.
  - Articles of Incorporation were filed with and approved by the Secretary of State.
  - The annual Memorandum of Understanding and Annual Work Plan between the DNR and Friends of Tettegouche State Park was approved. This allows FTSP to conduct activities, distribute literature and raise funds at the Park.
2. **FINANCE:** Established financial policies and procedures to account for and safeguard funds, including two signers for checks.
  - FTSP has contracted with Parks & Trails Council for fiscal agent services. They manage all tax-deductible membership fees and donations and grants. In addition, FTSP has a checking account for non-tax-deductible donations.
  - Established July 1-June 30 as the organization's fiscal year.
  - Approved agreement with Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota for fiscal agent services.
  - Registered with Nonprofit Treasurer, a free cloud-based software for small nonprofit organizations to manage local funds.
  - As of August 18, 2020, the Lake Bank checking account balance is \$385.56. The balance in the fiscal account held by Parks & Trails Council is \$1,349.06. This past year Parks & Trails Council administered two grants on our behalf: one for habitat restoration and one for youth education and outreach.
3. **GRANTS:** FTSP applied for funds to support programs and projects.
  - Application was made to the DNR for Master Naturalist Training for the Northwoods-Lake Superior biome January 27-31, 2020 for five participants at the Long Lake Conservation Center. There were about sixty applications for twenty grants. Unfortunately, our application was not accepted.
  - FTSP reviewed a potential grant program, No Child Left Inside Grant Phase 2. Although board members initially expected to apply for this grant, after careful review, it was determined that FTSP could not meet grant requirements.
  - Application was made to Northland Foundation's Age to Age Program for funds to support three concerts at the park. \$900 was awarded.
  - In-kind donations were received from The Lake Bank and Zup's Grocery in support of Winter Fest.
  - Application was in process to Parks & Trails for a spring habitat restoration project; however, the grant program was cancelled due to coronavirus.

**PROGRAMS & ACTIVITIES:** The mission of FTSP is to provide support for programs focused on education, youth, science and trails. The Board set out three goals for this past year. 1: Expand youth, family and volunteer naturalist programs. 2: Support arts, music and other cultural and community events at the Park. 3: Habitat restoration and new amenities such as a multi-sensory interpretive trail, accessible improvements and playground. The following is the status of projects to date:

- Completed spend out of Parks and Trails spring Habitat Restoration grant by purchased tree caging materials and purchased equipment and supplies under the Parks and Trails Youth Education and Outreach Project grant.
- Sponsored Scavenger Hunt during Thanksgiving holiday.
- Sponsored a table for The Silver Bay Library's Christmas Tea fundraiser.
- Sponsored February 22nd Winter Fest event attended by at least 125 persons.
- The March member meeting to plan programs through September was cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions. Tettegouche Visitors Center remains closed and naturalist activities suspended at least through the remainder of the calendar year. FTSP has suspended group activities until further notice.
- FTSP has sponsored photo scavenger hunt activities for youth during the pandemic. A drawing will be held after Labor Day and prizes awarded.
- The Board is considering how to maintain outreach and planning through virtual means.

#### 4. COMMUNICATION & MEMBERSHIP:

- Jill Beim developed a website for Friends of Tettegouche. The site allows posting of volunteer opportunities and for people to sign up for those opportunities.
- Brochure updated.
- Nine emailed newsletters sent.
- Membership renewal notices sent.
- Excel database developed to manage mailings.
- Membership expanded from eighteen to thirty-two this past year.

#### 5. COLLABORATION, ADVOCACY & CAPACITY BUILDING

- Board members attended Parks & Trails fall conference at Jay Cooke State Park.
- Several board members invited to Parks & Trails annual meeting and geology talk held at Tettegouche Park's new addition informally known as 'pebble beach'.
- The Gitchi-Gami Trail Association reached out to FTSP for support for their bonding bill request for the Silver Bay - Tettegouche segment of the bicycle Trail.
- FTSP is collaborating with AEOA regarding recruiting volunteers for programs and projects and, once coronavirus restrictions can be lifted, will be working with Gooseberry State Park and Sugarloaf regarding meeting volunteer needs.
- FTSP supported Parks & Trails Council's advocacy for bonding bill projects in support of parks and trails in Minnesota.
- Members have participated in various webinar opportunities this spring including: "Compass to Nature" and Parks & Trails webinars on "Friends Groups & Master Naturalists" and "Natural Play Areas".