

# Friends of Geode State Park

Minutes of the General Meeting of Friends of Geode  
November 3rd, 2024, 2 p.m.

## **Location of Meeting:**

Bob Dodds Insurance Meeting Room  
108 North Main Street  
Danville, Iowa 52623

## **Officers present:**

Mark Wesely, John & Jill Fullenkamp, Sue Pratt, Mary Fortin, Doris Dickey, Michael Fortin

## **Members present:**

Bill Fortin, Bob Hesler, Janet Hesler, Ron Helling, Kathi Myers, Sherry Hope, Tony Martinez, and Tyler Stigge

## **Secretary's Report:**

Mark asked the members present if they had any objections or corrections to the August 4th, 2024 General Meeting minutes that were sent by email. As there were no changes, Mary made a motion to approve the minutes. This was seconded by Sherry; all eyes carried the motion.

## **Committee Reports:**

1. Nominating: Mark mentioned that at our May, 2025 General Meeting, we will vote to fill the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and one At-large board vacancies.
2. Geode Challenge Races: Kathi Myers stated that this year's event went very well. Overall, runners had positive comments regarding the race. Virginia is getting the pictures that she took of the race to Don Myers so that he can post them on the Facebook site. She mentioned that next year's prices would increase by \$5.00. She is also planning on making even more signs to put on the trail so that there is no confusion as to the path to be taken.
3. Concessions Building: Mark & John have been spearheading work days to complete the soffit and fascia project. It is close to being finished. They and Dave Smith are meeting with Kirk Miller to assess the electrical work on Monday, the 4th. When this work is done, the building will be inspected by the state. Mark is also going to check with Ken Ita regarding the foam insulation and drywall work. We will try to get a bid from Tim and Steve Ita on the drywall as well. There

is a tree that needs to be removed that hangs over the concession building. This will prevent potential damage as it is a risk for falling onto the building. Park Manager Ulf Konig has approved us removing the tree by a licensed and insured contractor.

### **Old Business:**

1. There is a need to have more bottle/can receptacles in the park. We would ideally like another one at the campground, as well as one at the beach area and one at the main dock. John and Bill will make a trip to look at the existing one so that materials can be purchased. Bill can possibly weld those together for us.
2. Mark mentioned that he and Doris are going to start working on the By-laws for Friends of Geode and make necessary changes by next spring.

### **New Business:**

1. Proposed event budgets will now be due by the end of March to the President.
2. Matching Grant: There is an anonymous individual who has proposed a matching grant to Friends of Geode. They are willing to match up to \$15,000 if we can raise the same amount of money starting October 1st, 2024 until October 31st, 2025. They are allowing us to collect labor hours towards our goal. Everyone will need to keep track of their volunteer hours when working on any given project over the next year. Jill will document these hours, make a copy for the DNR, then keep a copy for our documentation. Please turn in your volunteer hours to her.
  - a. Letters were sent out to individuals and businesses earlier this year regarding donations needed for our Concession building project. Mark, John, and Dave will follow these letters up with a visit to the commercial businesses once a brochure is made about the park and our matching grant goals. This needs to be done soon so that we can approach these businesses before the end of the year as they will need to budget for any donations for next year.
3. Firewood: There are two work days to cut and split wood for the woodshed. Saturday, November 9th & 16th from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Board members are encouraged to call members on their list for help with this project. They will meet at the campground for both dates. Lunch will be served. Jill & Janet Hesler will provide lunch for the 9th and Janet Wesely and Doris will provide lunch for the 16th. Please wear the proper safety gear if you plan to use a chainsaw. The

park has extra chaps and helmets. Bring any chainsaws or wood splitters if you have them.

4. Fundraiser Ideas: We will need to have more fundraiser events at our park over the next year. Some of the ideas shared were:
- Sponsor a Paint-a-Picnic Table
  - Yak Attack Breakfast
  - Bike-A-Thon

We are open to any other ideas you may have to help us reach our matching grant goal!

**Next Executive Board Meeting:** Monday, January 20th, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Fullenkamp home.

**Next General Friends of Geode Meeting:** Sunday, February 2nd, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Bob Dodds Insurance Meeting Room in Danville.

Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Jill Fullenkamp

Minutes approved: Date \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes approved by: Mark Wesely, President \_\_\_\_\_

Jill Fullenkamp, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_