CPMC annual report August 2024-August 2025

The Camp Property Management Committee, with the Camp Property Manager, is charged with overseeing the management of present and future properties that Baltimore Yearly Meeting uses for camping, retreats, and similar activities. We plan ahead and prioritize short- and long-term needs of the camp properties and support our tireless Camp Property Manager, David Hunter. Current committee members include ~~Christine DeWilde~~, Chris Greely, Anne Honn, Rick Honn, David Hunter (Camp Property Manager), Blain Keener, Jackie Kosbob, ~~Lamar Matthew~~, Kevin O’Riley, Rick Post, Nathan Shroyer, and Greg Tobin (Clerk). We are often joined by liaisons ~~James Bell (Stewardship and Finance),~~ Karen Suzanne Daniels (Camp Program), and Gary Gillespie (Trustees). We meet by Zoom on the first Monday of the month at 7PM and jointly with the Camp Program Committee in February. The Committee assists in hands-on work at the camps and coordinates approximately eight to ten camp work days per year.

The majority of our attention in the past two years has focused on repairs and upgrades to Opequon Quaker Camp which relocated from Brucetown, VA to Rolling Ridge ~~Nature~~ Conservancy for the 2024 camping season. We are grateful for the generous support of BYM donors who, through the efforts of the Development Committee, raised over $800,000 to support the construction of eight new cabins, tent platforms, composting toilets, and many other improvements. Although the Camp’s infrastructure was relatively rough in 2024, Director Jared Wood and staff put on a rich program which was enjoyed by many campers. We are happy that the staff and campers will have much more enjoyable and functional facilities in the coming 2025 camp season with the completion of at least five new cabins, installation Clivus Multrum composting toilets at the cabin sites, four new toilets in Camp Central, reconfiguration of the bathhouse, new refrigeration in the kitchen, and many additional upgrades. We will continue to consider and plan for additional improvements to Opequon. The construction of a swimming pond is a high priority if we can gain approval from neighboring stakeholders and raise the funds.

While the majority of our efforts centered on the new Opequon facility, we were blessed that Shiloh and Catoctin were in good condition and did not require expensive emergency repairs.

At Shiloh we are planning to build the last of the two replacement camper cabins in the next budget cycle and are studying repairs to the historic Ruby’s Cabin. In the past 20 years, highly invasive kudzu has grown rapidly and now threatens the health of the forest. Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management), an environmental organization has been working on kudzu control in our downstream neighbor’s property and has also made some headway on our land along the Conway River. We are investigating various funding mechanisms, such as state grants, to start a more comprehensive kudzu control program before it is too late.

At Catoctin, we have finished replacing all of the older cabins at Catoctin Quaker Camp and we have a wonderful and welcoming bathhouse with composting toilets. The kitchen sports a new coat of paint and we have a new fire circle that is further away from road noise. Our next major tasks include either a major upgrade to the infirmary or a replacement building that is more suitable for camp needs.

Looking ahead, we invite Friends to join us for our upcoming Fall and Spring workdays at each camp. The work can sometimes be hard, but the company and food are wonderful! Please consider signing up at <https://bymcamps.org/community-work-days/>. Our most pressing needs is raising funds for camp repairs and improvements and finding the time to get all of the work completed. We invite Friends to join our committee and experience camp from a different perspective!

Respectively submitted for the CPMC,

Greg Tobin, Clerk

Frederick Friends Meeting