

**EDC NPS Meeting
June 12, 2013
Personal Notes: Debbie Kulick**

Listed below are my rough notes from the meeting with John Donahue and other members of the NPS:

1. Would the NPS be willing to partner with the township's Historical Commission with a museum building? Park service offered to work with the park/township if possible. Discussion about various partnerships and properties within the park that may be possible.
2. Will there be a second phase of reductions/closures at DWGNARA as a result of Sequestration? What could that be? More closures could happen, but JD has no idea. He explained how the current cuts were determined; next year will bring the same issues since this year's donations are not guaranteed. Discussed the success of the Pocono Pony and how it has worked within the park.
3. Future commercial vehicle travel through the DWGNRA in 2015 and beyond? Is there a date when the truck ban would be reversed or is it a permanent ban through Congress? To ensure that local business can have access, what would have to happen? There is a 2015 deadline in place. In 1983 209 was given to the Park as its roadway, McDade worked to have legislature modify the use requirement and that has a long history. In 1993 commercial traffic was to end, but was still allowed to some point since there were no alternative routes available. Those routes are now available elsewhere and with the completion of 001 (estimated by 2015) there would be additional travel ways available. The NPS is looking for a resolution for truck

traffic and local deliveries to homes would still be possible. 2015 is however the deadline for the issue to be resolved.

4. Does he know of any of his concessioners that might be interested in relocating closer to the Park office or opening an additional location in Middle Smithfield?

There is interest in some new businesses locating within the park. They always hoped for someone to move into the old Gulf Station, like a bike rental or such.

Concessions are available with commercial use authorizations. Things like climbing, fishing guides, etc. are located within the park or are welcome within the park. Events such as races have been held and are planned, however at this time nothing is food related.

5. Are there any plans for expanded camping areas within the park? Those that are there are still struggling with issues, so no additions seen at this time.

Action items:

1. A point person will be identified to work with the Historical Commission
2. There will be meetings about 209
3. Additional business opportunities are welcome, connect with NPS if they arise or there is interest.
4. An EDC tour may be scheduled in the future.

Hand outs were shared with the group as well as a report entitled: **Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation, 2011** and a collection of various Park

related statistics from across the country. These two reports will be available at the next meeting for all members/supervisors.