**FRIENDS OF MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

**MINUTES**

**Sunday, August 24, 2014 3:00 p.m.**

**Morrow Mountain State Park Lodge**

Chair Mullinix called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed the group. Present were: Vanessa Mullinix, John Young, Greg Schneider, Robert Flake, Tevis Smith, and Tanya Davis

Minutes from the previous meeting were distributed and read by members. The minutes were approved by a move by Greg Schneider to accept minutes as read, and seconded by Tevis Smith.

A treasury report was provided by Treasurer, Tevis Smith. As of August 24, 2014, the Raleigh (State) account had a balance of $4,391.12. The local account balance as of the same date was $2,974.37. The sum of both state and local accounts totaled $7,365.49. This balance also included donations from collection boxes strategically placed at the mountain. The contributions from the collection boxes were reported as follows:

 February, 2014 $14.00

 March, 2014 $34.00

 May, 2014 $50.00

 July, 2014 $142.79

 August, 2014 $166.32

 TOTAL $407.11

Treasurer Tevis Smith also provided an update of the wall restoration expenditures which totaled $10,074.77. Project expenditures were financed from three accounts and all costs associated with the wall restoration have been paid in full. Funding sources utilized for cost of the project were provided by the following:

 Friends of State Parks Grant $3,000.00

 FMMSP State Account $6,548.22

 FMMSP Local Account $526.55

Local businesses and volunteers also contributed time, labor, and funding for the restoration of the wall. The wall restoration was a huge undertaking for FMMSP, and success of the project would not have been possible without assistance provided by businesses and many individuals who gave freely of their time.

As of August 24, 2014, Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park has a total of 171 members.

The next item discussed was the identification of an audit committee to examine FMMSP financial records. Per FMMSP bylaws, the audit committee is nominated and identified by Chair Mullinix. Superintendent, Greg Schneider and Jenny Henderson will serve on the audit committee, and Joe Ingram will be asked to serve as well. The audit will need to be completed by the Fall Membership meeting on November 16, 2014.

Chair Mullinix opened discussion regarding the nomination committee for the positions of Vice Chair and Treasurer. The nominating committee will consist of Vanessa Mullinix, John Young, and Tanya Davis. The offices will be presented and voted upon at the November 16th meeting.

The split rail fence will be completed by volunteers on August 27, 2014. Superintendent Greg Schneider reported that he had the logs cut. Walt Deppe will be directing the fence project, and Jim Krug is scheduled to bring his tractor with post hole diggers. The work is to begin at 10 a.m. and volunteers are asked to bring wedges and other items such as post hole digger equipment, etc.

A report on the Hiking Trail Committee was given by Superintendent Schneider, and he noted Ken Knight is doing an excellent job of organizing trail hikes, though participation has been low. It was discussed that we need to do a better job of getting the word out to members, and enhanced means of communication to members was needed. Vanessa was going to speak to Phil Lowder to see if he may have suggestions to help.

John Young reported on the History Committee and noted Randy Daniel provided a wonderful presentation for the community. He also mentioned a presentation by the Stanly County Historical Society to be provided by Ben Jolly on the history of the integration of the pool at MMSP.

Marketing and Promotions did not have a fundraising report, but it was discussed that we need to add additional members to Marketing and Promotions, as well as increase member participation with other committees and projects with FMMSP. Secretary Tanya Davis will ask Pam Brafford to serve, and Chair Mullinix plans to ask Margaret Fields to serve on the Marketing and Promotions Committee.

The board then moved to new business. First on the list was a proposal by Chair Mullinix to identify a FMMSP individual and/or business of the year. Each would have made significant contributions to FMMSP. The contributions would not necessarily be monetary, but considerable support and volunteer efforts as well. John Young felt this would be a good idea, with an announcement and award to be presented at the fall membership meeting. Additionally, it was discussed that it may be nice to serve Brunswick stew at the fall membership meeting. Vanessa will contact individual members for assistance.

Chair Mullinix has spoken to several motorcycle groups and presented the idea of hosting a bike ride at MMSP on Saturday, October 25, 2014. This would serve as a fundraiser for FMMSP. A logo sketch and wording has been drafted for posters and t-shirts. It was suggested the proposed event be called “Riding High at Morrow Mountain.” Serving hotdogs at the conclusion of the ride was mentioned. Lengthy discussion followed. Superintendent Schneider was not opposed to the idea, but pointed out that park officials would not have lots of time to devote to the event. Other members felt there were many events on the calendar around that time already, such as Old Fashioned Day at the park. Additionally, it was noted that late October is busy with high traffic to view fall colors from the mountaintop, and it was discussed that a motorcycle ride during this peak time may be too demanding on traffic flow and for park officials. Chair Mullinix suggested the mountaintop be part of the ride, but that the gathering at the finish of the ride take place at the picnic area. Weather permitting, there is an estimate of possibly 100 motorcycles. No power would be needed at the picnic area for the event, so a generator would not be necessary for park officials to set up. Chair Mullinix made a motion to host the motorcycle rally on October 25th. Two members voted in favor, and two voted against the event. The motion was tabled at that time for further discussion. In subsequent discussions addressing the event via phone and email, the motion carried to host the bike ride on October 25th.

Badinfest will take place this year on September 19 and 20. FMMSP will have a booth, and Tanya Davis, John Young, and Tevis Smith agreed to be present at the booth. Discussion followed about selling MMSP t-shirts at the FMMSP booth that weekend. Superintendent Schneider planned to check on selling the t-shirts at the booth.

Superintendent Schneider reported that Old Fashioned Day rules have changed which will now allow vendors to sell their items. They do, however, have to demonstrate the making of their craft or product instead of solely displaying their items. Educating attendees about old-time trades and craftsmanship is still the top priority of the event, but allowing vendors to sell items as well as demonstrate their craft will help attract additional vendors. In the past, FMMSP has provided a contribution to MMSP for the event. Superintendent Schneider will investigate what amount of money may be needed for OFD.

Tanya Davis provided information and spoke to members about the possibility of identifying a cause and applying for the 2015 Stanly County Community Foundation Grant next year. The grant requires those applying to be registered by the end of February, and the grant proposal will be due later in the Spring.

Chair Mullinix officially adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Davis, Secretary

Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park