**Minutes**

**Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park**

**Spring 2014 Meeting**

**May 4, 2014 3:00 p.m.**

**Morrow Mountain State Park Lodge**

Chair Vanessa Mullinix called the Spring, 2014 meeting to order with the following directors present - John Young, Tevis Smith, Tanya Davis, and Phil Lowder. Park Superintendent Greg Schneider attended the meeting, along with several additional members including Laura Krug and Ken Knight.

The first item of business included approval of minutes from previous meeting as read by Secretary Tanya Davis. Tevis Smith made the first motion to approve as read, and second motion to approve was made by Laura Krug.

Treasurer Tevis Smith presented financial updates to include monthly balances of both state and local accounts as follows:

 January, 2014 (S) 1961.53 (L) 2178.53

 February, 2014 (S) 2017.53 (L) 2227.53

 March, 2014 (S) 2692.83 (L) 3022.83

 April, 2014 (S) 6422.34 (L) 3029.87

The total of both accounts as of 4/21/14 was $9,452.21. Tevis also reported that to date, individual memberships totaled 146.

Chair Mullinix reported visiting several businesses to ask about donations. Two businesses, North Carolina Bank and Fiber Composites appear positive for future support and financial contributions. She did mention she was pleasantly surprised to find the board room at Fiber Composites decorated with a Morrow Mountain theme.

Chair Mullinix opened discussion on leaving the membership fees this year at the current rate of $10.00 per person. (Rolling memberships had previously been approved at the 11/10/13 Membership and Board Meeting and that approved change was made to the Bylaws.) It was unanimous from members present that the membership fees should remain at $10.00/individual. The motion passed with Laura Krug making the first motion, followed by Tevis Smith who seconded the motion. (Bylaws already reflect the membership rate at $10.00/individual.)

Chair Mullinix informed everyone that supplies of brochures and envelopes were running low, and she had ordered more of each. Members were encouraged to take brochures and envelopes to distribute to encourage expansion of memberships. Also discussed were the contribution boxes that would be strategically placed at the park for collection of donations.

Ken Knight gave an update on trail hikes, and commended Phil Lowder for the extraordinary job he does with the FMMSP website. Albemarle Parks and Recreation has sent several individuals to join FMMSP and to join scheduled hikes. Phil encouraged Ken to submit stories or experiences he wished to share regarding the hikes to be placed on the website. It was also discussed that a few shortened hikes be added, along with hikes that include historical narrative along the way. A doctor will be submitting articles to post on the website about the native chestnut tree.

The computer to be purchased through an Alcoa grant for Morrow Mountain State Park office is scheduled to be ordered. Some delays have occurred with coordination and compatibility of the park’s current computer system. Ron Anundson is still working to finalize details.

John Young provided a report from the History Committee. So far the kickoff of the Dr. Randy Daniels presentation has been very successful with a packed house for the presentation to be held at MMSP Lodge on May 18, 2014 at 2 p.m. The presentation complements Dr. Daniel’s research and book on the Hardaway site. It was noted that Dr. Daniels was one of the few that had gone through the entire collection of artifacts uncovered by Joffre Coe and gifted by Alcoa to North Carolina State University. Dinner is scheduled with Dr. Daniels at the Treehouse (6:30 p.m.) following the presentation for anyone wishing to join.

There was lengthy discussion about the restoration of the stone wall at the entrance of the mountain. An experienced stone mason has been identified and has agreed to lend his expertise for the reconstruction of the stone wall. Rick Thompson was present to discuss bringing in Special Forces for the tear down of the existing rock structure. The first working days are scheduled for May 27 and 28, 2014. A list of volunteers has been compiled at the park office, but it was noted that only a few individuals had signed up to help with the project. Additional volunteers will be identified as needed as the restoration gets underway. Chair Mullinix suggested placing a sign at the reconstruction site to include FMMSP and the names of businesses contributing toward the project. She will work with Eddie’s Signs to get a sign for the site. Funding for the project was discussed, and nothing unforeseen happening, the general feeling was that funding in local and state accounts can adequately support this project. The wall, originally constructed in 1940 by the Civilian Conservation Corp., will be reconstructed utilizing the original native argillite and will as closely as possible resemble the original stone wall. Other items, such as equipment as water needs were discussed as well. Officials at MMSP will supply the water for the project.

Park Superintendent Greg Schneider announced that on May 31st and June 28th, the park gates at the entrance will be open until 11 p.m. so that community folks can enjoy the night sky from the top of the mountain. This is a trial run for perhaps a summer expansion of hours for closing the gate at the park. Greg hopes that these trial-run dates will be a success, and that tourism and economic development efforts can be enhanced for local restaurants and businesses in the area by allowing guests to enter the park later in the evening.

The next meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. Sunday, August 24, 2014 at the MMSP Conference Room. There being no further business for discussion, the Spring, 2014 meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Davis, Secretary

Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park