**Minutes**

**Friends of Morrow Mt. State Park**

**Annual Membership and Board Meeting**

**Morrow Mountain State Park Lodge**

**November 10, 2013, 2:00 p.m.**

Chair, Vanessa Mullinix welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

A brief discussion was held about the important $1000 grant from Alcoa and the plans to use their gift for the computer hardware to help digitize the history archives at MMSP. It should be possible to digitally copy and store the park’s archives with Digital NC – NC’s digital heritage site now being used by museums and archives around the state. Digital NC receives both state and federal funds and is housed at the Wilson Library at UNC. (See digitalnc.org) A committee consisting of Jim Barfield, John Young and Jonathan Underwood (also with assistance from Jeff Michael and Park Ranger Ron Anundson) is working on this project.

Vanessa addressed the importance of our end of year Membership Drive. Many of our members will need to renew their membership in early 2014. The Executive Committee along with volunteer, Laura Krug will gather on Tuesday, Nov. 12th to mail out membership renewal letters to those members who need to renew in Jan. 2014.

Vanessa lead a discussion on the need to change our current Friends of MMSP by-laws so that memberships are not all tied to a calendar year. The wording of the current by-laws has created problems with people joining in mid-year and in later months of the year. Such a change will also allow membership renewal money to be received all during the year. Laura Krug made a motion to change the current by-laws so that memberships will become “rolling memberships” so that the beginning date for the membership is when payment is received and the renewal is due one year later. The motion included the request for the Executive Committee to make that necessary change to the by-laws. The motion was seconded and approval was unanimous for the by-laws to be changed to rolling memberships. Tevis Smith added that he has in place a new spreadsheet that will allow Friends of MMSP, going forward, to keep-up with rolling membership due dates.

Vanessa announced that the FMMSP Nominating Committee had nominated her to remain as Chair for 2014 and 2015. (Nominations of the four officers take place according to the by-laws on staggered years; therefore, the Vice Chair and Treasurer will be elected at next year’s Fall Membership Meeting for 2015 and 2016.) She has appreciated serving and has appreciated all the help she has received from Executive Committee members in fulfilling her task. Vanessa then announced that Tanya Davis was nominated to remain as Secretary for 2014 and 2015. Vanessa explained that in accordance with the by-laws the Audit Committee will run today’s election. The Audit Committee consist of Vanessa’s appointee – Jane Harrison, Tevis’s appointee – Joe Ingram and Park Superintendent, Greg Schneider appointed himself to serve as the third member.

Joe Ingram, as the election representative for the Audit Committee then took the floor to run the elections. Joe thanked Vanessa for her fine service and asked if there were any more nominations from the floor for Chair other than the initial nomination by the Nominating Committee. Motions were then made and approval was unanimous for the nominations to be closed and then approval was unanimous to elect Vanessa Mullinix as Chair for 2014 and 2015. Joe then thanked Tanya for her service and asked if there were any more nominations from the floor for Secretary other than the initial nomination by the Nominating Committee. Motions were made and approval was unanimous for the nominations to be closed and then approval was unanimous to elect Tanya Davis as Secretary.

The Minutes for the Sept. 8th 2012 Board Meeting were made available to read and then those Minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Fashion Day was discussed. There was a good turn-out and it was mentioned that Ron Anundson was hoping that we could help attract more vendors next year. Vanessa mentioned that again this year FMMSP had given the park $500 to help with expenses for OFD. FMMSP provided coffee and hot chocolate for OFD and sold some new memberships and received contributions.

The History Presentation by Jeff Michael on Oct. 20th was discussed. It was a fully packed Lodge for his presentation and everyone mentioned that they had heard great reviews and community appreciation for this event. A DVD of Jeff’s presentation should be available soon. Also Jeff’s PowerPoint presentation should be available soon. It was mentioned that Jeff was very popular and drew a lot of folks to the presentation but the huge turnout was also due to several months of active publicity, the placement of flyers, the active use of our website and Face Book page, and great help from the Stanly News & Press who provided free advertisement for what they defined as a free and important community event.

It was discussed that a major FMMSP community event, like Jeff’s presentation, should happen each year. The idea of Randy Daniel’s author of “The Hardaway Site Revisited” making a presentation about Native American activity at the Hardaway Site, along the Yadkin River and the very active use of Morrow Mt. rhyolite was one suggestion. Another suggestion was a presentation about the geology of Morrow Mt. and the Uwharries.

Treasurer, Tevis Smith reported that as of Nov. 10th FMMSP had $990.53 in our local Uwharrie Bank account and $4679.34 in our Friends of State Park’s account that is designated for FMMSP and held in Raleigh. Therefore the current total in the two FMMSP accounts is $5,669.87. Tevis also announced that currently there were over 120 members of FMMSP. Tevis also mentioned that any contribution check of over $250 was sent to Jim Richardson for deposit in the FMMSP account in Raleigh. It was also decided that Tevis would meet with the Audit Committee on Dec. 18th at 2:00 pm in the conference room at the park’s office for the yearly audit of the finances of FMMSP.

Vanessa thanked and praised Superintendent, Greg Schneider for all of the hard work done this year by the park’s staff due to the major storm damage. The improved view shed at the top of Morrow Mt. was also praised. Both Mother Nature and the contract tree crew helped get the views back a little more like the original plan of the Civilian Conservation Corp. Superintendent Schneider stated that over 100,000 trees, throughout the park, had been either cut down or trimmed during the park’s intensive clean-up. Superintendent Schneider said that the forty year old power and water line to the top of Morrow Mt. was damaged by the storm from trees being uprooted. It will take many months for that job to be completed and for the new bathrooms to be usable.

Vanessa then asked for any additional items of business for this meeting. It was mentioned that our District 25, State Senator Gene McLaurin has joined FMMSP. Superintendent Schneider mentioned that FMMSP may consider thanking Sec. of NCDENR, John Skvarla and NC State Parks Chief of Operations, Mike Lambert for all of the assistance provided by the State for the huge clean-up effort.

More committee activity was suggested on a regular basis – most committees have not had regularly scheduled meetings. It was mentioned that the Trails and Hiking Committee members would like to have more organized hikes. It was mentioned that the 75th Anniversary of Morrow Mt. State Park needs to be emphasized in 2014. Perhaps a special 75th Anniversary Tee Shirt would be good for additional fund raising. More fund raising visits to area businesses like Michelin were suggested. Vanessa mentioned her plans to have a Brunswick stew fundraiser, perhaps sometime this winter. It was mentioned that going forward it would be best to have at least three months of active publicity for any major FMMSP event – several weeks’ notification about a key event is not sufficient.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

John Young, Secretary Pro Tem (in absence of Secretary, Tanya Davis)

Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park