**FRIENDS OF MORROW MOUNTAIN STATE PARK**

**MINUTES**

**Sunday, November 16, 2014 3:15 p.m.**

**Morrow Mountain State Park Lodge**

Following a delicious Brunswick stew served to everyone, Chair Mullinix called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. and welcomed the group. Twelve members were in attendance and park staff, Ron Anundson and Superintendent Greg Schneider were also present for the meeting. Prior to the beginning of the meeting, minutes from the previous meeting were distributed to the membership. Chair Mullinix noted that membership fees will remain at $10 for an annual membership. This is a rolling membership and remains current for one year from the date an individual becomes a member. She also called attention to the FMMSP website where information such as bylaws, minutes, and upcoming events are posted and updated. FMMSP also has a current Facebook page for members and others to view.

A treasury report was provided by Treasurer, Tevis Smith. As of October 31, 2014, the Raleigh (State) account had a balance of $4,441.12. The local account balance as of the same date was $2,753.39. This balance also included donations from collection boxes placed at MMSP in amount of $600.00. The total cost for the wall entrance project was $10,000. Superintendent Schneider commented that the renovated wall had made such a positive difference in the appearance of the park entrance, and also noted that the FMMSP group had a long list of volunteer projects and activities that provided much support and assistance for MMSP. In talking to other officials across the state about their “Friends Groups,” he said FMMSP was known as the group on fire!

As directed by the bylaws, terms were open for Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Candidates were recommended by the nominating committee as well as open to the floor for additional recommendations. The first position brought to the membership was for Vice Chair. Chair Mullinix recommended Robert Flake and additional nominees were opened to members present. With no additional nominees, Tevis Smith made a motion to accept Robert Flake as the Vice Chair, and the motion was seconded by Jenny Henderson. Robert has volunteered many hours of time and equipment for the wall reconstruction and other needs for the park, and noted he was honored to serve in this capacity.

Current Treasurer Tevis Smith was nominated to remain in the position of Treasurer. Additional recommendations for Treasuer were open to the floor, and there being none, Jenny Henderson made a motion to accept Tevis Smith as Treasuer, and the motion was seconded by David Gallimore. Current Secretary Tanya Davis was nominated to remain in the position and additional nominees were requested from the floor. With no additional nominees, Tevis Smith made a motion to accept the nomination of Tanya Davis as Secretary, and this was seconded by Jenny Henderson.

Phil Lowder has done an outstanding job as FMMSP webmaster, and has agreed to continue in that role. Laura Krug and Janet Davis were also recommended as nominees and elected as Directors. Walt Deppe will continue to serve as a Director.

Committee reports were provided. John Young was not present to provide a report from the History Committee, but the group has coordinated two large community events during the past year, and continues to work on historical projects. Joyce Lambert from the Stanly County Historical Society will do a presentation on the history of the Kron House on May 9, 2015. The presentation will be followed by a tour of the Kron House. Ron Anundson mentioned that the park would like to host a Native American Day in 2015, but no specific plans or dates have been set at this time.

Ken Knight chairs the Hiking and Trail Maintenance Committee and is currently working to generate additional interest in the hikes. The hikes are posted on the website, but participation remains lows. A special trail hike has been scheduled for Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. with a special focus on the geology of the mountain. Steve Teeter, who is a Uwharrie Mountain Geology expert, will lead the hike which will begin at MMSP picnic area.

The Membership and Fundraising Committee has discussed two future projects where additional funding would be needed. The first project up for discussion is renovation to the right side of the park entrance wall. It is estimated this project could cost between $12,000 - $15,000 to complete. The committee recognizes the need to present to local civic groups to bring awareness to the community what a valuable resource Morrow Mountain State Park is to this area. More news articles and radio ads could help bring awareness as well. Chair Mullinix will contact Phil Lowder to see about getting an email blast set up to keep members better informed.

The second project for discussion is the MMSP barrack reconstruction. The barracks are currently in fair condition, but much work would need to occur in order for them to be used. The electrical wiring would need to be upgraded as well as the septic system, roof, siding, and heat and air. The estimated cost to restore the barracks is $50,000 - $60,000. Grant opportunities for this project are currently being explored as state expenditures for this project are not likely in the near future. Superintendent Schneider noted the value of restoring the barracks would be to employ approximately 28 seasonal employees and bring in college students who have an interest in studying or researching the many natural resources present at MMSP. Boy Scout groups could benefit from having the barracks restored, and most importantly, having the facilities operational would allow the park to house trainers to educate staff and park volunteers in specifically needed subjects.

Superintendent Schneider spoke about a Land Protection Specialist who had agreed to examine properties contiguous to MMSP in an effort to ensure future preservation of the park. Only two land purchases have occurred since the original development of the park. Superintendent Schneider would like to assess and prioritize preservation objectives based on input from the surrounding community. The Land Conservancy of North Carolina has expressed an interest in meeting with FMMSP as well to determine how the two can work together on land preservation efforts.

Old Fashioned Day was just held, and Ron Anundson once again thanked FMMSP for their contribution. The computer purchase was discussed, and Ron noted he would get with John Young and hopefully move soon on a purchase.

Lastly, a fundraising effort was discussed that would select Kron prints (these are original artworks created by the Kron daughters) and craft note cards with them for sale to the community. There has been long-standing discussion on permission rights, and all permissions have been cleared to move forward on getting the note cards printed and ready to sell.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Davis, Secretary

Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park