FRIENDS OF THE SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK,INC.

Meeting Minutes---November 20, 2023

WEBSITE: smlspfriends.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Christmas party…Sunday, Dec. 3rd 1:00-3:00 pm Bring hors d’oeuve, desserts, appetizers. Bring your own drinks. There is no fee. If you choose to participate, we will have the “Dirty Santa” game…$10.00 max

Jan 1st First Day Hike 1:00pm Refreshments needed and hot chocolate serrvers.

Trails: The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays….Martha will send emails

Next Friends meeting: 3rd Monday of January at 9:30 am

ATTENDANCE: 18 members, 2 Park staff, 1 guest, Laura Podyma President, Nancy Galvan, opened the meeting and asked for a vote on October’s minutes. The minutes were approved as written.

New member Lyn Siebert, was introduced and told us a little about herself.

As Treasurer was absent, Dick Hendrix gave the report. Income: $1,735.18 Expenses: $1,694.55 Net Income: $40.63 Treasurer’s report was accepted as read.

Chief Ranger, Travis, reported on a project he would like to pursue, a “Dog Walk” in the Spring…April or May. He would like to have several organizations participate and would like the Friends to have a part in it, such as selling food. He is hoping to have lots of people come into the Park. He would like to give the dogs a metal or a bandana.

Travis reported that there were 39 deer harvested.

Travis also reported that you should make sure your background check is current.

Interpreter, Jet reported on the First Day Hike and the Winter Lecture Series

Laura Podyma, from the local American Chestnut Foundation, was there to promote the rescuing of the American Chestnut and there is a documentary that could be shown. It was suggested that we could show it sometime during the Winter Lecture Series. Brian Heft, Park Manager, gas a great interest in this program.

As we went over the budget at the last meeting and there were no questions or suggestions since then, we went on to vote on the budget. It was unanimous that we accept the budget.

Martha reported that the trails are in good shape. Some trails have downed trees which the Park maintenance take care of. In the Spring she plans on buying plants for the garden.

Carla is still researching the playground and is looking for a grant writer

Janis reported on the Lecture Series and has fliers to promote the series.

Osprey Race: Good news, we made $2767.72. Bad news, do we continue with the race? We need a replacement for Doug who was in charge of road course and volunteers. We would like to get back to the race in April as it was created to honor the return of the Osprey’s. This means we would have to wait 18 months, in order to get our sponsors. Since Travis would like to have the Dog Walk in the Spring, this could be a benefit for us and we could have the Race the following April.

In the future, we need someone to coordinate Adopt a Highway. We are also looking for a social media person and a website and publicity person.

Charlie Walker : Since Brian is retiring Feb. 1st, he suggested that the Friends have a party for him at Edo’s (downtown). We will have to pick a date convenient for Brian .

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Diana Brennan, Secretary