

**Mountain High Hiker
General Meeting
October 5, 2015**

**Meeting Place: Tom and Betty Shope's subdivision pavilion
Pot Luck luncheon**

General meeting was opened by President Michael O'Brien at 12:40

Board Nominations December, 2015 - Nominees:

President - Tom Shope
Vice-President - Pam Sullivan
Publicity - Barb Burnsworth

Committee Reports:

- **Vice-President** - Tom Shope explained that MHH is aware that the budget given to the Forest Service can have 50% taken from their budget to fight fires around the nation. Several reports from the Forest Service summarize this problem to let people in congress know what is happening. There is little money for building and maintaining trails, children's education, or adding new employees when money is taken from the budget. The Forest service report recognizes that national disaster rules need to be changed, not the funding. MHH is an advocate for the Forest Service.
- **Treasurer** - Doug Yarns gave the Treasure's report.
- **Membership** – Frank Maloney reported that we have 189 members. Approximately 1/3 of the membership use Paypal.
- **Web Master** – Richard Sullivan reported that the hike schedule is on web.
- **Publicity** – Pam Sullivan will send one more newsletter before change in the board members. This will be a special newsletter with lots of up and coming information.
- **Secretary** – BJ Foster reviewed how important information is organized and filed for the MHH club.
- **Conservation** – Judie Kean - reported that several events coming up. Six different events are being held. Three groups asked for three year permits and they were granted by the Forest Service.

Judie also reported that MHH group was contacted by Dogwood Alliance in Asheville. Asheville EPA approved bio mass solution by growing forests to cut the trees down. The trees would be used to make wood pellets and send them to electric companies to burn. Dogwood Alliance disagreed with this idea and sent them a letter. They asked MHH for support and we gave them our support.

- **Social Director** – Candy Retter thanked every one for bringing wonderful food to this meeting. The next meeting will be December 3rd, 2015 at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church. Pot luck at 6:00 pm.
John Kay will be our speaker.
Wilderness wildlife week has new dates. May 18th to the 23rd.
- **Trail Maintenance** – Bronco Burnsworth told the membership that Jack knob is open. He then gave out trail maintenance awards.
Bronco will submit a request, as he did last year, to the American Hiking Society for funding the trail maintenance workers' food. Brasstown resort provides the rooms. This group would maintain other trails beside Miller Trek the last week of May 2016.
- **Hike Planner** – Dave Werkheiser needed one more hike leader, and all hike leader positions would be filled. One of the hikes changed, because of trees downed.
Dave thanked Evelin Yarns and Jerry Carnes for help he received with hike planning.

Donation Hike Inn Education:

President Michael O'Brien discussed donation to the Hike Inn educational program. Tom Sewel is making sure that MHH donation will be well spent on this project. Tom sat in at ATC training. He developed a lesson plan. Tom then lined up schools that matched MHH criteria. Bronco Burnsworth suggested that we visit the program when it is presented. MHH will donate \$2000.00 to this program.

National Trail Days:

Joe Boon invited all of us to National Trail Days June 4th 2016 at Vogel State Park.

New Map:

Dayton Miller showed the new map of all trails in Union County. He worked with Jan Stancil on this project.

President Michael thanked every one for coming and complimented the present MHH board members for their fine work.

Meeting adjourned at 1:11 pm
Respectfully submitted,
BJ Foster
Secretary