

**Mountain High Hikers
General Meeting
September 1, 2016**

Place and time of general meeting: President Tom Shope's Community Pavilion.

The general meeting was opened by President Tom Shope at 12:43 pm

**President Tom asked for new members to introduce themselves
And reviewed board member positions that might be needed. They were,
President, Secretary, Treasurer, Conservation.**

Updates:

- **Conference – Collaborative Learning Workshop June 16th in Gainesville, Georgia** – Michael O'Brien reported the workshop was to change the process of how the Forest Service helps groups to "buy into" or resolve projects that present a problem. By inviting people to come together and discuss different issues, eventually it allowed the Forest Service to get ahead of the problem outcome. Groups then began to have trust the Forest Service.
- **AHS Volunteer Vacations for 2017:** Bronco reported that there was not a project for 2017. But another project is being researched and will eventually develop.
- **Possible Search and Rescue Program with Union County** – Richard / Michael- nothing is happening at this time.

Old Business:

- **Hike Leader Recognition:** Tom Sewell just took over the Hike Leader position and needs time to develop this.

Committee Reports:

- **Vice President** – Pam is the short Hike Leader. She also discussed the Hike Inn date for hiking over- night will be December 14th and 15th.
- **Secretary** – Nothing new to report.

- **Treasurer** – Doug gave treasurer’s report.
- **Membership** – Frank Maloney gave the number of MHH members now totaled 172 members.
- **Social Director** – Candy thanked the Shopes for having the club members at their community pavilion.
Candy booked the next general meeting on December 12th (Monday) at Sharp Memorial Methodist Church in Young Harris. Our speaker for that meeting will be Andy Baker from the Forest Service.
- **Conservation** – Judie reported the following:
 1. Received notice from the Forest Service of application for 4 recreational events this fall. They are 2 mountain bike races; 1 adventure race – this is new; 100 mile run; 3 of these races have been completed in the past with little or no issues.
Note: all 4 events now contain language regarding change of pathway to include Forest Service roads instead of trail system in the event of rain.
 2. Detour (bridge building) Open House in Suches: wonderful attendance by all concerned citizens. DOT received all comments in writing and there is a good possibility that the DOT will not close the road during construction of the new bridge. Anticipated construction is 2019.
 3. **Forest Workshop – September 28th at GMREC** – Notice sent to all MHH members about 3 weeks ago. If interested call GMREC at 706-745-2655.
 4. Judie will be retiring at the end of the year as the Conservation chair.
- **Trail Maintenance** – Bronco handed out awards for maintenance.
- **Hike Planner** – Absent
- **Communication/Publicity** – Absent
- **Web Master** – Fall schedule on the web otherwise nothing new.
- **Nominating Committee for 2016** – Candy Retter and Sullivan are the Nominating Committee

- **MHH contributions/donations for 2016** – A contribution to the following group was suggested. A \$500.00 donation would be made to **SAWS**. This group helps the SE region take care of the difficult trails. SAWS backpacks in and out to do their work. A vote was taken and all members were in favor.

George Owen spoke to the membership about the “Winter Hiking Event” hosted by SEFTC. The Winter Hiking Event will be January 18-22, 2017 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Information is on the SEFTC web site.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:20 pm

**Respectfully Submitted by,
BJ Foster
Secretary**

