FRIENDS OF THE SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK, INC.

 Meeting Minutes---January 20, 2025

WEBSITE: smlspfriends.com

Attendance: 20 members, 4 guests, 3 Park staff

President, Nancy Galvan asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes were approved as written. VP Alison Baird, introduced potential new members, Doug and Sandy Stevens and Donna and Danny Sturba and told us that Robyn Holmes has returned as a member. In the absence of Sue Beeler, Alison told us that as a Master Naturalist they are looking for new members. There is training for new members starting in March with 40 hours of classroom and field work. Treasurer, Susan Eldridge, gave report for November Income: $392.97 Expenses: $394.97 Net income: $1.99 December’s report: Income: $ 744.84 Expenses: 622.98 Net Income: 121.86 Her reports were accepted as read. Susan asked for 3 volunteers to audit her records. Dick Hendrix, Bill McDonough, and Debi Kiingston volunteered. We were given $1900 from proceeds from the “Turkey Trot.” Chief Ranger, Travis , reported that after the wind storm, they had 54 trees down in the Park especially at the cabins and main road. They are putting rip rap at the picnic area. They are removing the carpet in the cabins and replacing that with vinyl planking. 15 cabins are being stained. The other 5 were done last year. They purchased 45 new PFD’s for the boat. The Master Naturalist are giving an interpretive program on May 17th, which is for all of us and there will be fun things for kids to do. And, it’s free. Travis hasn’t had time to work on the “Dog” event. There are new forms for background checks and you will be notified when you need to update. Park Manager, Chris, reported that 54 trees came down in the Park. Starr Anderson, marketing specialist will be at our February meeting and will speak about social media. Our Park was 4th in the state this year with 561,743 in attendance giving us a record year. Chris said to bring your “film” for Nex Trex to the meeting. He will pick it up and take it to maintenance and weigh it and take it to the appropriate drop off. He gave a slide presentation on “Dark Sky” It’s an educational program on what we would have to change in our Park to become one, especially changing the lighting, making lights shine down instead of out. This is a great astronomy program. You can learn more by going to Darksky.com Laurie Andrews talked about the “Turkey Trot”. There were 240 registered with 19 sponsors. She thanked our volunteers. She presented Susan with a check for $1900. Park Interpreter, Jet, has sign up sheets for April for the schools aquatic programs. Trails coordinator, Martha, said they are working on the trails and thanked everyone for their help. Blue Bird guru, Dick reported that he is doing training the last weekend in March. Boat Captain, Matt, reported that all the captains are coming back and that there is new lighting at the dock. Boat guide, Carla, reported that the speakers are working better with the new placements, but they are a little difficult to place Nancy reported that the Osprey Race is April 26th and we will be looking for lots of help. This is our major fund raiser. Lastly, Diana, reported that even though she thought the Christmas party was a success, with lots of wonderful desserts, with the members approval she would like to change things around and have a planned meal. The members agreed.

The meeting was adjourned, Respectfully submitted, Diana Brennan, Secretary