

Attendees:

Margaret Lillard  
Corinne Dunn  
Marsha Ragsdale  
Bob Harkness  
Alex Ives  
Susan Bloomfield  
Jill Thomas  
Roy Corpening  
Leslie Meadows  
Ed Barrows  
Larry Hancock  
Tim Lisk  
David Zonderman  
Brenda Fury

- Welcome: Margaret – 7:03
  - o Introductions for Dr. Zonderman, NC State representative
- Review of November 2019 Minutes: Leslie
  - o Motion to approve: Bob, Larry second
  - o All approved
- Financial Report: Corinne
  - o Last of the 2019 tour income has posted and 2019 donations are still being updated
  - o Motion to approve: Marsha, Bob second
  - o All approved
- Mill Report: William
  - o Shared some pictures of the mill, such as what remains on the millstones when the runner stone is lifted after grinding, mill tours, and corn meal bagging events
  - o Photographer Tyler Northrup visited Yates Mill in November as he was writing an article for *Our State* magazine on corn
  - o Totals for November Corn Grinding tickets and craft sales:
    - Holiday Craft Sale: \$704
    - Merchandise Sale: \$468
    - Mill Tour Ticket Sale: \$357
    - Total: \$1529
  - o Still struggling with keeping the Arlo Security system connected to the router because our connection is not on the AT&T map of connections
  - o Santa Photo At the Mill on December 7, 2019
    - Attendance was very light this past year
  - o Yates Mill has been featured in the Cary Magazine, on a quilt at the QuiltSpeak exhibit at the NC Museum of History, paintings/photos in various restaurants around the area
  - o Cleaned off the top of the dam after heavy rain events
  - o Someone has been throwing large rocks into the flume, so he wants to figure out something to prevent people from doing that again
  - o Howling Cow Creamery is open for Business
- Park Report: Tim
  - o Preparing for the Mill Tour season, 13 groups are already registered for tours in March and 8 for April

- Wake County Parks and Recreation are revamping and eliminating some of the special events
  - Harvest Festival at HYMCP and Frog Fest at Crowder are being redesigned
    - Harvest Festival – see below
    - Frog Fest – Changing the date, scaling back the event
  - The number of Wake County of camps will be reduced, other organizations will still be welcome to host camps at the park
- Lake Wheeler Road Project may be reopened later this winter as funding is released
  - DOT still owes HYMCP and YMA a meeting to discuss the project – they will reach out when they restart the planning process
  - Discussion on having a stakeholder meeting between YMA, HYMCP and NC State prior to the meeting with DOT
    - Tim will ask the Wake County Planning Coordinator to help organize that meeting
- Mussel Research Facility: final tweaks being made to the plans
  - Plan is that contracts would go out this summer, construction to begin this fall
  - HYMCP plans to remove the current materials YMA is currently storing in the research wing into the storage closet near the auditorium in the visitor center
- Wetland Boardwalk Renovations
  - Work is nearly complete
  - Trex composite material being used
- Phares Yates House has been presented to Wake County by Thomas Sayer for donation through a first right of refusal
  - HYMCP is planning a few preservation projects on the house until they are prepared to move the house
- Volunteer Appreciation event – held in January
  - Steve Lord was Volunteer of the Year
- Volunteer Mill Tour Refresher on Sunday, Feb 9
- Mill as Muse Contest – entries will be accepted through Feb 9, awards on Feb 21
- First Corn Grinding will be March 21-22
  - Special Event: Farriers will be on site on Saturday afternoon
- Old Business
  - Nominating Committee: Bob
    - Board members' terms expiring: Ed Barrows, Susan Bloomfield (not returning), Corinne Dunn, Leslie Meadows, Larry Hancock
    - Travis Park has expressed interest in joining the Board
    - Margaret is stepping down as President, but will remain on the Board, wants to focus more on publicity and outreach
  - Education Committee: Bob
    - Feb 18: Outreach Committee will meet
      - Wants to find a way to reach out to employees and/or PTSA leadership for the schools
- New Business
  - Events
    - No more Harvest Festival
      - Planning to spread out some of the events from the Harvest Festival during each of the individual Corn Grinding events throughout the season

- YMA Board asked for Leslie to receive a copy of the schedule so YMA can potentially schedule something at those times as well
  - We may want to consider doing our own Craft Sales events since we will not have the Harvest Festival
    - Marsha and Jill will discuss what we may want to consider a craft sale offsite, other Corn Grinding Events, etc.
- Santa Pictures – do we want to consider a new format?
  - The event was not very successful event December 2019 – partially because of publicity
  - May want to have a Santa and allow individuals into the Mill to take their own pictures rather than having a photographer
- Other fundraisers to consider
  - Margaret asked the Board members to think about potential ideas
  - David Zonderman recommends thinking about whether it's worth considering doing fewer, but larger events rather than more smaller events
  - Susan encouraged YMA to keep the events here, because if you're trying to sell Yates Mill, participants can see the Mill and the Park
- HYMCP Advisory Board: Leslie and Bob (YMA Representative)
  - Same people have largely serving on the Advisory Board since it organized
  - Tom Wentworth shared via email the proposed revisions to the Advisory Board Bylaws
    - Highlighted the following revisions:
      - Extended the terms of service from 2 to 3 years.
      - Eliminated the limits to the number of terms a person can serve.
      - Created a "3 strikes" rule for members with poor attendance. Members who miss 3 consecutive meetings without a proxy will be removed from the Advisory Board.
    - Revision of Advisory Board Bylaws – approval?
      - Leslie moves YMA submits questions regarding Article III, Section 3, Article IV, Section 3.B and Article VI, Section 4 to the Advisory Board and start dates. Upon receipt of clarification, the YMA Board will vote on the revisions via email, Alex second
      - All approved
  - Discussion of reporting requirements for advisory board representatives
    - William asked about whether there is something in the YMA Bylaws about choosing Advisory Board Members
      - There is not anything currently in the YMA Bylaws
    - YMA will need to choose Advisory Board members in the November Full Board Meeting
    - Marsha moves that YMA Executive Committee will draft proposed language for the YMA Bylaws to create a process for naming representatives and maintaining communication with YMA to the HYMCP Advisory Board based on the answers from the clarifying questions, Leslie second
      - All approved

- Proposed hot weather policy for Corn Grinding weekends
  - Long-standing policy of if the Heat Index was above 90 degrees, volunteers had option of wearing historic costuming
  - Wake County is working on its own weather policy, will likely be ready for the March Executive Meeting
  - Executive Committee had discussed allowing for the option to cancel if the forecast high was above 95 degrees
  - Agreement to wait for the Wake County policy
- Blue Star Museum Initiative
  - Marsha will submit the application when it becomes available from the First Lady, which should become available in late February
- Research of tour/attendance fees for similar sites
  - Roy researched mills in North Carolina – other mills are generally using their products to generate revenue
    - Similar product sales to our corn meal are \$6.50 - \$10
  - Marsha researched local attractions – they are mostly \$7-8 for adults with other fees for students/seniors
  - Ed looked for other mills like our facility outside of North Carolina – their fees range from \$5 - \$20, depending on the amount of things the site features
  - Board agrees we will review this information and consider changing some of our fees for the 2021 tour season
- Upcoming Events:
  - March 1: Tours resume
  - March 4: Executive Committee Meeting
  - March 14-15: First Corn Grinding Tours of 2020
  - April 1: Executive Committee Meeting (last before annual meeting)
  - May 6: Annual Meeting
- Meeting Adjourned: 8:48