

February 4, 2021

7 pm, held via WebEx due to COVID-19 outbreak

Attendees:

Larry Hancock

Leslie Meadows

Bob Harkness

Alex Ives

Travis Park

Marsha Ragsdale

Ed Barrows

David Zonderman

Tim Lisk

William Robbins

Brenda Furry

1. Welcome, Larry Hancock, 7:06
2. Minutes: Leslie Meadows
 - a. Motion to approve: Bob; Alex second
 - b. All approved
3. Financial Report: Corinne Dunn
 - a. Corinne was not able to attend, but submitted the reports and commentary via email
 - i. Donations are up for 2020, so even without mill tour income, 2020 income was similar to 2019
 - ii. Can take up to \$15,000 from the endowment fund every year, her recommendation is to consider doing that again this year, as we will be limited in sales and tour income for at least 1st half of year
 1. Board approved this recommendation
 - iii. She is investigating whether YMA is eligible for funds from the second round of PPP money, she will report what she learns
 - b. Motion to approve: Bob; Travis second
 - c. All approved
4. Reports
 - a. Mill Report: William Robbins
 - i. Shared images of the mill at Christmas
 - ii. Judge Rader chose to have his NCSU Distinguished Alumni award picture taken at the mill
 - iii. We have had a lot of rain in recent months, causing some flooding events
 1. Damage to the mill dam, the waterwheel support
 - a. Brooks Burluson came out to do some repairs to the dam, waterwheel support, as well as the foundation under the porch and the wall in the mill yard
 - iv. He and Jeanne finished relocating the paper goods and merchandise to the storage facility at Ample Storage
 1. There are still some items in the Park Center storage closet for sale if that ever becomes possible
 2. Popcorn popper, one freezer, Santa's chair, the two wagons and cornmeal bagging materials remain in the research wing

- v. Has relocated one freezer to Alex's office at the dairy
- vi. Alex has also worked out a deal to sell the cornmeal at the Howling Cow Creamery
- vii. Has been doing regular cleaning and maintenance for the mill
- viii. Retrieved some of the siding from the repairs done in the 1990s that YMA kept during the restoration
 - 1. Will use it to repair some sections of siding
- b. Park Report: Tim Lisk
 - i. Continuing to "hold the line" on services due to COVID-19
 - 1. Restrooms, playgrounds, and picnic shelters are open
 - 2. All in-person programming is cancelled and remains cancelled for the foreseeable future
 - 3. Closures do help protect the staff from exposure
 - ii. Despite the closures and cancellations, Yates Mill had a record number of visitors – about 164,000 visitors to the park in 2020
 - 1. March – June in particular the park was "slammed"
 - 2. Overall a 20% increase in visitation division-wide
 - a. A trend for Wake County, but also seen nationally
 - iii. Potential budget reduction for fiscal year this summer
 - 1. Several proposals are being considered to address the budget shortfall, but none are guaranteed solutions at this time:
 - a. Eliminate 3 vacant "frozen" positions
 - b. Shorten daily operating hours by 1 hour and open at 9am instead of 8am
 - 2. Likely will not find out what the effects of the budget will be until May
 - iv. Park staff is continuing to move items out of the research wing
 - 1. NCSU still has research items that need to be removed as well
 - v. Mussel Project for the research wing
 - 1. There have been some project delays, but the project could go out to bid as early as March, and under contract as early as June
 - vi. Phares Yates House due diligence – budget and administration departments in the division have decided to no longer plan to move the house
 - 1. Timeline is not matching between the park and the owner, Mr. Sayer
 - 2. Cost to restore and move the house would eat up too much of the park's budget
 - 3. David asked if any conversations had been held with Preservation NC or other groups to preserve or move the mill
 - a. He also mentioned the Dean of Design School or the Development Office at NCSU
 - b. Tim reports the house has gone through too many modifications to be designated as a historical structure
 - c. Tim reports Mr. Sayer is looking for others who may be interested in the house as well
 - d. David may be willing to help make introductions to colleagues at NCSU – just asks for whatever information YMA and Yates Mill County Park has
 - vii. Lake Wheeler Road bridge – not much movement on that project right now

1. DOT is doing some planning and research, specifically for archaeology and architecture concerns of the dam downstream from the mill
 - a. Yates Mill will be able to have access to whatever video or other information they collect
 - viii. Shared the “Walking in Nature” music video put together by park staff
 1. Video is accessible here:
<https://www.facebook.com/yatesmill/videos/196801595429543>
 - c. Education Committee: Bob Harkness
 - i. Jan 24 – Volunteer Appreciation ceremony and get together for volunteers for Yates Mill and Crowder County Parks
 1. Volunteer of the Year: Sam Ray
5. Old Business
- a. Annual Appeal Letter and other donations reports: Brenda Furry
 - i. Summarized the process of the donation collections process
 - ii. Shared data for numbers of donors and amounts of donations for 2018-2020
 - iii. 4 new donors in December 2020
 - iv. Marsha asked if there would be a way to track who donated in response to the donation appeal letters
 1. Brenda said maybe – she will have to look into how to do it in Donor Perfect
 - b. Santa at the Mill
 - i. Santa sent a video message this year, Leslie shared access to the video with the group
 1. Video is accessible here:
<https://www.facebook.com/yatesmill/videos/4025470404149662>
 - c. Corn meal sales at NCSU Dairy: Alex Ives
 - i. Sales at the Creamery went well in December, met with William to restock a couple of times – especially for yellow cornmeal
 1. YMA has sold the Creamery 120 bags - \$360 worth of corn meal
 - a. 84 bags have been sold so far
 - ii. Honey sales and other products also doing well
 - iii. Curbside service currently; discussions about opening the building are just beginning
 - iv. Marsha added she has asked about possibly selling cornmeal at Joel Lane House and will continue to pursue this option
6. New Business
- a. Continued adjustments needed due to COVID-19?
 - i. At this point, still waiting to see how things develop this as we move into spring
 - ii. Tours are cancelled for the foreseeable future
 - b. Nominating Committee for Class of 2024: Bob Harkness (chair)
 - i. Committee includes: Steve McLaurin (board member), William Robbins (at large member)
 - ii. Board members with expiring terms:
 1. Bob Harkness
 2. Alex Ives
 3. Margaret Lillard
 4. Marsha Ragsdale
 5. Jill Thomas

- iii. Everyone is willing to renew for another term
 - iv. Steve also has a potential candidate in mind
 - v. Larry also has a potential candidate in mind, but may recommend she learn more about the site as a volunteer first
 - c. Planning for Annual Meeting, May 2021
 - i. Will have a remote meeting as we did last year
 - 1. Will post minutes, financial report, Park Report, Miller's Report, and a message from the President, and ballot for electing board members on the website
 - 2. Letter will be mailed to the membership with some updates, and referring everyone to the website for more information
 - a. Letter will also include a ballot for members who want to vote by mail
 - 3. Election of the board members will be done remotely (see above)
 - ii. Election of YMA officers for 2021-22 will be held later in May, once the board elections have taken place
7. Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm