

Friends of Twin Lakes Membership Meeting
July 22, 2017

Meeting began at 9:00 a.m. **Board of Directors** all present.

Reminder of upcoming events:

- Free CPR/AED/first aid training sponsored by St. Vincent's (August 22nd at 8 am, CMC Climax Building Room 401).
- Fire suppression training (July 27th at 8:30)
- Bingo (July 26th at 6 pm) with "blackout" game (prize donated by Wagners)

Mary Moore, Forest Service District Ranger: Ranger Moore began by introducing herself. She has been in Leadville for 8 months. She worked in California for 17 years. Her specialty is hydrology. She worked at Lake Tahoe for 14 years.

MM emphasized the importance of building relationships and partnering with groups like FoTL. She likes connecting people to the land so they understand its value, providing opportunities to manage and promote future healthy landscapes.

- Colorado TeleCom. They're working on Sugar Loaf Tower and Colorado Telecom is trying to get Century Link backhaul supplied so they can service the PanArk area until the Granite Tower is built. Granite Tower work will start late fall/early spring. FS environmental analysis for Granite Tower is ongoing now. It's a 30 day process (as of last week). NEPA decision will be completed by end of August. Permit by end of August/first of September.

- Historic Park. MM thanked the FoTL community for invaluable service by Visitor Center volunteers. She commended FoTL for its good work on behalf of the Forest Service. She said the Regional Office is working on getting a 3rd party (non-FS) archaeologist to determine the historical significance of the historic park. (FoTL has recommended Kurt Schweigert.) She said she has no desire to decommission the Clarion or tear it down. We can work together to restore it.

It was pointed out that FoTL has been waiting for over two years for FS comment on historic assessment.¹ (See footnote for publicized details.) MM said we need a historic assessment and a structural

¹ The following is from our "Projects" page on the friendsoftwinlakes.com website and provides background on our efforts regarding the work agreement with the FS and work on the Clarion.

Cost-Share Agreement

This is an important step in allowing FOTL to meaningfully participate and initiate renovations at the Historic Park. Please contact friendsoftwinlakes@gmail.com to volunteer or support this work. [13-CS-11021201-017 Twin Lakes Historic District](#)

We started the actual Historic Assessment of the Clarion Hotel on May 21, 2014. This is a critical next step to creating an appropriate plan to refurbish the Clarion Hotel both to preserve and display more features in the (footnote 1 on page 1 continued) Twin Lakes Historic Park. We will use this foundational assessment to seek further grants to allow us to do the refurbishment.

The draft assessment was submitted to the Forest Service and History Colorado in August of 2014. We have met and will continue to meet with the Forest Service to develop a strategic plan for staging and

integrity determination. Original buildings and relocated buildings should be examined. Are only the buildings significant? Or also the site?

FoTL discussion emphasized significance of both the site and the buildings. MM said a FS archaeologist is coming in August (Amanda Sanchez). She'll examine Interlaken + the Clarion + Vicksburg + Windfield.

MM said the Clarion may collapse. She has to determine the viability of FS projects. She said it would take a lot of money to make it structurally sound. Funding is a big issue for FS. FS may have a 20% reduction in their already small budget October 1st.

In response to FoTL inquiry about whether MM had received notes from previous FS staff about the Clarion, MM said previous FS staff notes stated that the Clarion is not structurally sound. They recommended letting it fall down. An FS engineering assessment concluded that the building isn't savable. FoTL requested a copy of the referenced engineering assessment as they had never heard that the building was not savable.

MM said that it was during a meeting with FoTL representatives in March when she first knew that FoTL considers the Clarion significant. She recommended that we figure out the procedure for moving forward from this point on. When FoTL asked about MM's commitment to the Clarion, she said it's on her list of priorities (20-deep).

FoTL cannot proceed unilaterally; a meeting with FS is essential. Concern was expressed about frequent changes in FS staff which result in more delays. We need continuity so we're on the same page.

- 5-year agreement between FS and FoTL. Our 5-year agreement determines how our partnership functions. We'll enter into a new 5-year commitment in December. We need teeth and weight in the new agreement. We need something simple and clear, with deadlines and persons or organizations assigned to carry out objectives. MM pointed out that the historical assessment will determine the path we take.
- National Registry Renomination. The renomination of the Historic District (which already includes both sides of highway 82) and would benefit new properties now eligible for inclusion has been held up due to the need to harmonize the work completed with yet to be disclosed FS standards. We should move forward with this effort first, followed by Clarion.

implementation of recommendations acceptable to the Forest Service. The ability to move forward has been impacted due to the unfilled local archeologist position for this District and the designated Forest Service liaison being tasked to other functions.

We received approval of the final assessment from History Colorado late in March of 2015 and look forward to engaging the Forest Service to obtain their additional edits and revisions, as well as determine priorities to move forward. Click on link to see the draft Historic Assessment.

[Clarion-Assessment-Subject to Forest Service Edits](#)

- Interlocken road and trailhead issues. FoTL comment on issues near the trailhead to Interlocken included camping everywhere, driving off road, campfires and the need for FS attention to this area. FoTL also discussed road issues: previously, FS said the road to the trailhead isn't on the FS system and the County said there are artifacts on the road which need an FS determination. Result: no road improvements. MM said the FS is working with NF Foundation partnership on a trailhead analysis.
- FS outhouse concerns. FS needs to replace the toilet paper bar with a smaller one. The current bar is too big so the toilet paper doesn't roll, resulting in multiple small pieces of paper on the floor.
- Fire danger issues. FoTL requested FS permission to store our fire fighting equipment in the Fine House. MM will make a determination and let FoTL know. She said as the fire danger goes up, FS will bring in additional resources, referencing the "Salida gap" (distance from FS fire equipment).
- Dispersed camping. MM said this district doesn't have any designated dispersed camping sites which means that people can camp anywhere they want. FS is looking into this issue. The only exception is the prohibition on camping 100 feet from water (this may be 300 feet, MM will confirm). MM pointed out that the new FS law enforcement guy can carry a gun as of August 1st.

MM closed by saying that she would rather have FoTL asking hard questions and that she would rather know (than not know) about FoTL concerns. FoTL thanked MM for coming to the meeting.

FoTL will send MM a list of the items she committed to during our meeting, also reminding MM that Kurt Schweigert is an excellent resource.

Emergency services discussion. Mike McHargue has inquired about additional volunteers from Twin Lakes. CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Team) helps those trained for law enforcement. It's not a huge time commitment. There's an on-line 6-hr. training and organized training every year (situational, e.g., active shooter, loss of power). E-mail will be sent to FoTL membership and a meeting set up, depending on response.

Reminders:

- Monday, July 31st -- Cathy Wagner seminar on strokes and heart attacks.
- Thursday, August 3rd (8:30 at school house) -- yoga class, then Wednesdays through mid-October.
- Collegiate Peaks seminar this week ("Coexisting with Coyotes").

Next FoTL meeting: August 26 (9 am at school house).

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 am.