

## **Down East Council Meeting**

**Minutes of regular meeting, April 11, 2017 at Williston UMC at 7 PM**

**9 members present and one guest.**

**The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by Chairman Barbara Garrity Blake.**

**The Treasurer's report was accepted as given.**

**The Secretary's report was accepted as given.**

**Chairman Blake introduced Smith Raynor from the State Department of State Parks, She is in charge of all State trails and there are five trails in the State.**

**The Mountain to the Sea Trail is partially complete and several sections are open, mostly in western part of the State. The trail was started in the western part of the State due to more State and federal land available in that area. All the trails are part of the State Park system. The Mountain to Sea Trail will be approximately 1100 miles long when completed. The State is working with local Parks and Recreation Departments and private sectors to complete the trails. The State is working with willing land owners and communities to acquire land for the trail. The trail starts at the western border of the State and will end up at Jockey's Ridge.**

**Private groups and people can sponsor sections of the trail and maintain the sections. The State is now looking to acquire land from Beaufort to Cedar Island. There is some portions planned in the Open Grounds farm/preserve in Otway. Will need help getting more land in between from private land owners, businesses, other groups and from the USMC and the US Fish & Wildlife Agency.**

**There are State and Federal grants available to build trail sections and local County Parks and Recreation Departments may also provide funds. There is a need now to establish possible routes through Carteret County. Possibly work with Coastal Federation, Snug Harbor, US Fish & Wildlife and large land owners. The State will not take land from any one that does not want to participate. Getting land is the key to getting the grants.**

**The presentation was well received and most folks thought this would be something the group should take part in. To be discussed more at future meetings.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.**

**The next meeting will be June 6, 2017 at 7 PM at the Williston UMC.**