

MATC Executive Committee Meeting
Friday, March 5, 2010
Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice –president, Tony Barrett, Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Corresponding Secretary, Steve Clark; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Bill Eddy, Bruce Grant, Bill Millis, Don Stack; District Overseers, Tom Gorrill, Julian Wiggins; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; Guests, Stan and Michelle Moody.

Absent: Directors, Bob Cummings, Craig Dickstein, Steve Gaffney; District Overseers, Dick Fecteau, Peter Roderick, Rick Ste. Croix.

President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the minutes of the January 9 meeting. She noted changes cited by Dave Field to his Overseer of Lands report. The new ATC staffer in charge of corridor management is Carlen Emanuel. She is considering a corridor boundary line option that might include some boundary maintenance funds to MATC for it to administer. Matt Stevens and Dave are trying to determine how best to handle the Natural Heritage Monitoring program, which no longer has an assigned New England Regional Office staff person.

Janice said she had made the corrections to Dave's report and provided printed copies of the minutes. She will also redistribute the corrected minutes through e-mail.

Elsa Sanborn made a motion, seconded by Bruce Grant, to accept the Secretary's report as corrected. The vote of the Executive Committee to do so was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's report, which showed net income of \$5,262.32. Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Tom Gorrill, to accept the Treasurer's report. The vote of the Executive Committee was unanimous.

2010 – 2011 Budget: As Finance Committee Chair, Tom Lewis, was unable to attend the meeting, Elsa Sanborn presented the proposed 2010 to 2011 budget.

Elsa noted that the CARE Committee had recommended filling only three caretaker / ridge runner positions for the season, in a cost cutting measure. As Baxter State Park has appreciated the benefits of having a care taker at Abol, its administration has negotiated to increase its funding for that position. In communication among members of the CARE Committee, Lester and Tom Lewis, the Finance Committee has recommended reinstating the Abol position, leading to staffing in four of the five usual CARE positions.

Elsa noted that the costs for the Trail Crew will be different this year, as it will hire only a crew coordinator, two MATC crew leaders, and four SCA interns, and will use more volunteers to fill crews. As a result of these changes, both CARE and the Maine Trail Crew will require lower levels of funding for the upcoming season than in recent seasons.

Elsa explained that wind power is the big item in the budget, accounting for \$50,000 in anticipated expenditures. The Finance Committee expects \$15,000 from a special appeal, and it asks for a transfer of \$25,000 from the Stewardship Fund. This will be the first time the club has removed funds from the Stewardship Fund, which was established to provide long-term funding for operations. To a question from Steve Clark regarding the interest available from the Stewardship Fund, Elsa provided the figure of \$35,000. Tony Barrett added that MATC expects \$10,000 from the Friends of the Western Mountains. Elsa will confirm that with Tom Lewis.

Elsa pointed out a \$10,000 allocation in the budget for the Base Camp, but stated that it is uncertain when the amount will be needed. Lester explained that the designated funds will be necessary to secure services, including design and a fund raiser coordinator who will organize the capital campaign.

Dave Field placed a motion, seconded by Tom Gorrill, to accept the 2010-2011 budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.

Dennis Andrews questioned e-mails from CARE Committee members regarding proposed contributions from Baxter State Park for the Abol care taker position. Lester said that in his discussions with park director, Jensen Bissell, the park is willing to fund more than half of the staffing costs for the 2010 season and half the cost for the 2011 season. He also said the proposed budget before the Executive Committee includes the Abol position. Bill Millis, who participated on the CARE hiring committee, commented on that hiring process. Given the national jobs situation, there was a good pool of applicants. Candidates were informed that hiring decisions would be announced by February 15, so those not hired at that time might have found other positions. Bill felt "optimistic" that CARE will find a suitable candidate for the fourth position. Lester stressed that Jensen Bissell will need to know that the position will be filled.

Dennis Andrews questioned the funding procedure for CARE, given the report at an earlier meeting that we would try to acquire funds a year in advance. Lester responded that he had recommended to the CARE Committee securing funding a year in advance. He explained that, given the timing of many grants, which are set later in the year than our budget process allows, the advance funding scheme is difficult. He further recommends that the club set a level of funding and replenish coffers throughout the year. Lester also plans to work more closely with the CARE Committee, particularly on issues concerning funding.

Holly explained that she has filed a proposal with the Betterment Foundation for a two year grant to benefit both CARE and the Trail Crew.

After considerable discussion, the Executive Committee voted to approve the budget proposal as presented by the Finance Committee. The proposal will next go to the annual meeting in April.

Highlands Wind Power Project: Tony Barrett provided an update on discussions and actions of the Wind Power Committee. The committee, comprised of Tony, Steve Clark, Milt Wright, Dain and Vera Trafton, Bill Millis, and chaired by Tom Lewis, has met twice since the last Executive Committee meeting. Tony said he has heard from several club members who have questioned why MATC is opposing this project. Tony explained that, after reviewing ATC and MATC policy regarding wind power sites, the Executive Committee voted to oppose because of turbines that will appear in the middle ground of the view shed. Tony reiterated that the club recognizes the societal benefits of renewable power sources. As discussed at the January meeting, the club's concern in this matter is the visual impact. As evidence, Tony presented a map showing the location of the proposed site, and several photos taken from Avery Peak and from Little Bigelow. Given the current visibility of lights from the Kibby Mountain wind power farm as far away as Horns Pond, there is also concern for the visual impact on the trail at night. Bill Millis said several other groups, including AMC, the Bureau of Parks and Lands and some "Friends of" groups, are also joining the anti wind power cause.

On behalf of MATC, Bill Plouffe is setting the case for public hearings and is building arguments to be used in opposition.

Bruce Grant asked about the Bayroot company that owns a good deal of the land near the AT in the areas designated by the Governor's task force as expedited areas. Tony said we've asked Angus King for information about the company, but it seems to be quite secretive.

Tony asked Executive Committee members for "sound bites" that demonstrate how the proposed wind farm will affect them personally.

Dave Field suggested that the Wind Power Committee contact members of the campaign to protect the Bigelows, as these are people who are passionate about the Bigelow area. Bill Millis noted that the committee has contacted Lance Tapley to solicit his input to the PR campaign against the project.

Lester presented an update from the LURC meeting on March 3, in Bangor. He has learned that Highlands Wind is still trying to procure an easement to tie its system to the existing system at Wyman Dam. Steve Clark added that the company will have to construct a second power transmission line, as the existing one is not heavy enough for the power to be generated by the turbines. Highlands Wind hopes to have that easement by August. LURC requires that the petition be complete before the committee will make a ruling. LURC will authorize a public hearing and has approved a list of interveners, and will schedule the hearing contingent on the application being complete. The list of interveners is lengthy, and includes eight organizations and one individual. Lester and Steve Clark also mentioned the 270 day clock. According to the expedited

permit process established by the Wind Power Law, LURC has 270 days from the acceptance of an application for wind power development to either issue the permit or not.

MATC Committee Structure: Tony Barrett distributed an updated list of club committees and their make-up. He reviewed the issues discussed at the January meeting, which included the following:

- ❖ use of teleconferencing. Tony reminded the group that Lester has a club account for committees that wish to use it.
- ❖ The CARE Committee needs a chairperson. The committee seeks volunteers to fill in for caretakers / ridge runners who may have to be away for an extended period. Holly noted that volunteers would need training. Bill Millis advised that the committee would need a club member to coordinate substitutions.
- ❖ Campsite Committee needs a “privy czar” and shelter leaders. The committee also needs to coordinate with district overseers.
- ❖ new members / leadership / development. The Executive Committee has discussed a volunteer data base, taking advantage of the NPS recognition program, recording volunteer hours, project involvement, free introductory memberships, and training opportunities.
- ❖ the burden on district overseers, as not all have deputies.
- ❖ the use of the website to aid the development mission
- ❖ the MATC public service role

Tony said that, unless there are additional changes, he will submit the committee lists for updating in the Local Management Plan.

Lester called for a method to keep this information updated and the committee system moving forward. Tony suggested that the President and Vice-president must keep aware of committee structure and actions.

Trail Crew Base Camp: The Base Camp Committee met on January 21. Through discussions at the meeting, the committee redrafted its own charge, which now includes “providing comprehensive planning, design and construction for the proposed permanent Base Camp in Skowhegan, ME. The Committee will finalize and administer the property lease agreement with the landowner, work with an architect for the facility design, coordinate with the Development Committee for project funding, oversee the construction, and develop a plan for the facility when completed.”

Lester reported that the first draft of the lease for the Malbon Woods property was not satisfactory because the attorney for the Somerset Woods Land Trust was not completely aware of the discussions between SWLT and MATC regarding the amount of land to be included. Lester received the new draft on March 3. He, Tony Barrett and Tom Lewis planned to review the lease and take further action. Final design work cannot take place until the lease is finalized. Once those steps are complete, fund raising may begin.

Lester also said that Tim Fortune had set up visits to several projects by Rick Renner Architects. Tim learned that the Renner firm works well with the owners to meet their needs and priorities. Tim says that all his research on green buildings leads him back to Renner's firm.

The next meeting of the Base Camp Committee was scheduled for March 10.

Maine Trail Crew: Lester also reported on the Maine Trail Crew, which will return this summer to the model under which it operated in 2005. The Trail Crew will not be affiliated with MCC, and will use MATC crew leaders, SCA interns and volunteers to fill out crews. At the time of the March meeting, the crew coordinator had been hired, as well as one of the crew leaders, a former MCC member. Lester was set to interview another crew leader on the following day.

Lester had high praise for the SCA organization, including the availability of on-line applications and resumés. He said three of the four SCA interns had been secured, mostly from the Northeast, and more than half with prior SCA experience. He added that SCA offers Americorps credit to its associates, which helps to draw high quality workers. Bruce Grant expressed concern that by breaking with MCC, which was about 50% Mainers, the club will lose the potential for new active members.

Firearms Safety in National Parks Legislation: Lester reported on the status of the Firearms in National Parks legislation. This legislation is the result of the Truth in Lending Act that ended the National Park Director's authority over the use of firearms in parks and gave that authority to the determination of individual states. Four parties, including MATC, testified in favor of the legislation restricting firearms on National Park lands within the state, while the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, the NRA and one individual presented opposition testimony. Lester noted that sixteen members of the MATC Executive Committee forwarded opinions to him, with most favoring the position that firearms should not be allowed in national parks in Maine unless dismantled or inaccessible to use.. Lester used this input to frame his statement before the legislative committee.

Geoff Shadman's Proposal: Dave Field presented Geoff Shadman's proposal to offer guide services on the AT in Maine and share profits with MATC, in particular with the CARE program. Dave presented a motion asking for a resolution by the Executive Committee to express support for Geoff's proposal of early 2009 and let Pam Underhill make the decision whether or not to issue a permit. Tom Gorrill seconded the motion.

Steve Clark asked if this proposal was limited to Geoff Shadman, or if it should be open to all guides, to which Dave replied that providing an opening to authorized guiding on the AT would have to be open to all, though only Geoff has offered to transfer funding to the CARE program. Dave added that it's

difficult to object to cautious use of the trail for commercial purposes when so many groups use the trail with less consideration. He also noted that the NPS requires a permit to guide on the AT, though many guides do so without obtaining a permit.

Elsa Sanborn expressed her concern for Geoff's request for MATC sponsorship for his service. Others commented on existing guide services for which we don't know qualifications and practices. Dave added that enforcing a permit process would help the NPS maintain a level of control of commercial use of the AT. Bruce Grant added that this is an enforcement issue, and MATC does not have authority to make a decision.

Following the discussion of the details of Geoff's proposal, in particular the MATC sponsorship aspect, Dave withdrew his motion and Tom Gorrill withdrew his second. Dave offered to communicate with Geoff regarding the MATC's concerns. Lester asked Dave to draft a letter for his review, and Dave subsequently asked Lester to make the communication with Geoff.

Club Coordinator Performance Review: The Executive Committee went into executive session to discuss the yearly evaluation of the Club Coordinator.

Club Coordinator Update: Holly reported to the Executive Committee on her work for the club. She has completed several grant proposals, in particular for \$80,000 from the Betterment Foundation, \$10,000 from Plum Creek to support the ridge runner at Gulf Hugas, and proposals to LL Bean and the Quimby Foundation. She has submitted nominations for the LL Bean Outdoor Hero Award on behalf of Julian Wiggins and Steve Gaffney. She has worked on recruitment for the Trail Crew, and has confirmed 21 volunteers so far for the 42 crew slots. She added that this process is easier using the ATC Data Base to review applications. She also was drawn into helping with the Winter Social, though she noted that Dick Anderson did most of the organizing.

75th Anniversary Celebration: Lester, Tony, Ray Ronan and Dave Field are working on preparations for the 75th anniversary celebration, scheduled for Saturday, June 19. Dave Field presented an idea to offer a picnic event at the new crew camp site, with an alternate location in the Skowhegan area in case of inclement weather. Lester felt that the Base Camp Committee might be ready with a building plan to unveil at that time. If so, this might be a good occasion to begin a capital campaign. Tony suggested that such an event would be good PR and that the club should prepare a press release. Steve Clark suggested that the Skowhegan Chamber of Commerce might be receptive to involvement in the event. Bruce Grant suggested that we invite the PATC as a gesture. Janice Clain noted that Pete Antos-Ketcham described a similar kick-off for the Green Mountain Club's fund raising campaign.

John Wihbey Request: Dave Field spoke to John Wihbey's communication requesting recognition for his father, Frank Wihbey. Elsa Sanborn, while sympathetic to the idea of a memorial, expressed concern for the precedent such a gesture would set. Bruce Grant suggested that the club incorporate a memorial site at the new base camp, which could also serve as a fund raising effort. Lester felt that it is important that the club set a policy for dealing with such requests. Dave Field has not been able to find a written policy regarding memorials on the trail. He added that the few names assigned to sites and structures used in common practice have not been authorized.

Lester will contact John Wihbey to inform him of the club's intention to establish a means to honor long-term maintainers. Dave will also draft a proposal for a policy and will circulate it to the Executive Committee. Lester agreed that the club needs to establish a mechanism to recognize long-time service to the club and the trail, and will continue the discussion. Bill Millis suggested that this is a topic for the Development Committee.

Communications Committee: Dave Theoharides was unable to attend the meeting, so the discussion of the Communications Committee was tabled.

Dave Field commented that the club website is much improved and stressed that the burden is on us to keep Dave Theoharides informed.

Complimentary Memberships: Don Stack announced the April 3 Teen to Trails sponsored "Life Happens Outside" workshop at Windham High School. Don and Ray Ronan will attend with an MATC display. They have asked the Executive Committee to authorize distribution of complimentary club memberships. A discussion of how many free memberships and the criteria for determining who should receive one ensued. Lester suggested that memberships should be awarded for service to the trail crew or to the CARE program, while Bill Millis thought each Executive Committee member should have a predetermined number of memberships to bestow as he or she thought best. Bruce Grant noted that ATC is promoting membership and community outreach, and felt that MATC should make a concentrated effort to educate the public and to bring in new members.

Lester said discussion of this topic and its larger implications should continue.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Bill Millis, that the Executive Committee supply free MATC memberships to Don Stack and Ray Ronan to distribute at the Teens to Trails Conference. Elsa Sanborn added a friendly amendment to limit the number to 100. Bill Millis expressed concern for how to track these memberships to see if the youth continue to participate in the club. In response, Don stated that he would distribute membership applications marked with T3 (Teens to Trails) to determine if the teenagers submit the memberships.

The Executive Committee voted to accept the motion as amended.

Overseer Reports: Julian Wiggins reported that he has one opening in the White Cap district. He asked about the relocation project on Little Boardman, to which Dave Field responded that he will organize the completion work.

Tom Gorrill said openings in the Baldpate district have been filled. He has had correspondence with the Bates Outing Club, which holds a maintainer position in his district. Tom has learned that the club is approaching its 90th anniversary and anticipates a commendation from the state legislature. This recognition has generated interest with alumni of the group. They propose establishing an alumni advisor / overseer. Tom hopes such a move will set continuity for the club, which has changed membership and leadership each semester. Tom expressed hope that the situation with the group will improve as communication has been reestablished.

Dave Field noted that the annual report of the corridor monitors is available on the club web site.

Other Committee Reports: There was extensive discussion of this committee earlier in the meeting. In summary, Bill Millis noted that the CARE Committee is hopeful it can secure a fourth ridge runner and that it will receive the outside funding it has solicited.

The Development Committee had no report.

Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Dave Field, calling for adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Clain
Recording Secretary