

Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Executive Committee Meeting
March 4, 2011

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice President, Tony Barrett; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Bob Cummings, Bruce Grant, Bill Millis, Don Stack; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Tom Gorrill, Peter Roderick, Rick Ste. Croix, Julian Wiggins; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; Campsite Committee Chair, Laura Flight; Guidebook Committee Chair, Ray Ronan; guests, Ron Dobra, Carol Leone, Michelle Moody, Stan Moody, Alicia Nichols, Betsy Idlehardt (via phone).

Absent: Corresponding Secretary, Phil Pepin; Directors, Craig Dickstein, Bill Eddy, Steve Gaffney; District Overseer, Dick Fecteau.

President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 7:01. With several guests in attendance, he called for introductions. He referred to the printed agenda and said there would be some adjustments.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's report from the January 8 meeting. She noted a correction in the information on the nominations for officers; Phil Pepin will continue as Corresponding Secretary until elections at the Annual Meeting in April.

Don Stack placed a motion, seconded by Bruce Grant, to accept the Secretary's report as corrected. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn presented the current Treasurer's report. Total assets are close to one half million dollars. Elsa made a few brief explanations of items in the report.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Bob Cummings, to accept the report. The Executive Committee voted to approve.

Budget: As Tom Lewis was unable to attend the meeting, Elsa presented the 2011 budget. On the income side, there are a couple items that are still pending, as indicated in the notes. The 2010 budget included monies designated for the Trail Crew that were not used, and that could cover any shortfall if grants are not approved. Monies for CARE in this budget have already been approved. The bottom line for the 2011 budget is \$263,000. If approved by the Executive Committee, the budget will be presented at the April meeting.

Peter Roderick placed a motion, seconded by Don Stack, to accept the budget prepared by the Finance Committee. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Elsa announced that the Finance Committee recommends that any expenditure of \$500 or more must be approved by the president.

Wind Power: Tony Barrett presented an update on the Highlands Wind Power Project. The developers' application was deemed complete since the last Executive Committee meeting. The review process is now under way.

Tony said that those who are concerned by the threat of wind power in the Maine mountains will need to try to do something legislatively, as so many projects are already in the planning stages; only legislation will help protect the Trail. The Wind Power Committee will bring back proposals to the Executive Committee. The committee is working on advocacy pieces for the press. They will ask for funding through a general appeal. Tony added that many people at the Wind Power Summit expressed concerns regarding wind power development in Maine's back-country.

Dave Field asked if there is any sense among the Wind Power Committee of what club members feel about the topic. Lester suggested that a poll be taken to gage the consensus of the general membership. Tony said that Dave Theoharides has passed on a couple comments from contacts to the web site that indicate agreement with the Executive Committee's viewpoint. Bill Millis reminded that this organization is not categorically anti wind power, but is concerned with the impact of wind installations on the trail.

National Historic Places Registry: Carol Leone presented the National Registry Project, discussed by the Stewardship Council. She introduced Betsy Eidlehardt, a historian from Boston, who joined the meeting by phone. Betsy does investigations for historical preservation, collecting information for National Registration applications.

Carol explained that the idea of including the AT on the National Register of Historic Places was proposed a long time ago, but time and resources prevented carrying through with the proposal. Pam Underhill has broached the subject again. Such designation would protect resources. Carol met with the Regional Partnership Committees and Stewardship Committee last year to discuss the proposal. She has been collecting paperwork and doing the ground-work for preparing an application.

Carol explained that the National Park Service is mandated to examine all their units to see what can and should be included. There is no controversy as to whether trail is eligible for inclusion in the National Registry. Inclusion on the National Register protects both cultural landscapes, as well as buildings. It also brings funding through the Park Service. The whole AT would eventually become part of the National Register, though the initial application does not have to designate the entire length. The National Register allows for a multiple property submission, which could be accomplished in pieces. The ATPO has submitted a request for funding from NPS, to initiate the process of researching and writing the application and to develop a programmatic agreement, an important step to any nomination. The initial submission of property paperwork would require selecting a section to nominate first. Carol can help draft the agreement with help from the RPC. She is not sure of all the steps but is confident that she will learn as she goes through the process.

Bruce Grant asked if further funding would be necessary once a site is

designated as a National Historic Place, and if there is money for improvements if needed later. Betsy responded that money for repair or rehabilitation is available for properties listed or eligible for listing.

Carol explained that she came to speak to the MATC Executive Committee to assess interest and find out if the club would designate a piece of Maine trail as a place to start. She said such a project will involve communication between the trail community and the contractor who prepares documentation. Betsy would rely heavily on ATC and MATC for data.

Dave Field reminded that MATC has a broad cultural resources inventory of the Trail in Maine. He added that more than half of the Trail in Maine wasn't in place before the 70's, and asked if that would impact the National Registry application. Carol said she focused on Maine because she knew there was already a lot of material available for Betsy. She added that inclusion requires that the resource be more than 50 years old; this would be an interesting test case. Carol is asking the Executive Committee to take this proposal to the rest of the club members for consideration.

Lester asked Carol to prepare a summary of the advantages to the club and to include any disadvantages for proceeding with the process.

Base Camp and Capital Campaign: Lester presented a slide display of the history of the Trail Crew Base Camp and the latest draft of the design for the new buildings. He said that the club will need to emphasize to the public the need for a trail crew; while most routine trail maintenance is carried out by volunteers, there is work that requires a full time trained crew. The Maine Trail Crew is now funded entirely through grants and ATC funding. It is the only crew along the AT supported exclusively by volunteers. With considerable investment in tools and vehicles, the crew needs a permanent and secure base for housing, storage and training. The club will build a facility that meets the needs of the Trail Crew and allows flexibility for other club activities. While there are advantages to allowing other groups to use the site, the terms of the lease limits use of the facility to organizations with a similar mission.

The Base Camp Committee, working with Renner Architects, has estimated a total cost for the buildings at \$1,482,255. There would be an additional \$366,000 for the grounds, road, utilities, storm water treatment, and landscaping. Lester reminded that the long term lease at a minimal cost allows a considerable savings. The plan to use volunteer or partner contractors will also help to keep expenses down. All advisors recommend a maintenance endowment to equal the original costs. The cost of a capital campaign runs to 10%–20% of the total funds needed. That brings the goal of the capital campaign to \$4,578,475.

Lester listed the four steps in preparing for a capital campaign:

- generate a statement of need
- execute a feasibility study (collect ideas)
- identify donors
- conduct considerable planning
- conduct the campaign

Lester outlined additional advantages of conducting a capital campaign; it can

bring in new supporters who may continue to contribute to the annual appeal; it can raise visibility; and it will increase MATC's assets.

Alicia Nichols, Fund Raising Consultant, explained that a feasibility study is conducted to identify about forty key individuals who will advise and contribute to a capital campaign. The process includes confidential interviews to determine if support is available. It identifies major donors and those who can help as campaign leaders. It indicates if the group is in a position to carry out a campaign.

Alicia has been collecting information on the club and its resources and practices. She has prepared a campaign readiness quiz to distribute to all members of the Executive Committee. Alicia added that 80%-90% of a capital campaign is planning and 10% is the actual fund raising. When asked if she thought there were enough large donors in Maine to support a capital campaign, Alicia referred to a recent successful campaign by the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust. She also explained that some potential donors may not be in the state of Maine, or may spend summers here and winters elsewhere.

When asked about a schedule, Alicia said she should be ready to begin the feasibility study in April, when some prospective donors return from their winter residences, and after some key meetings.

Lester added that the Base Camp Committee and Renner Associates will determine the final design of the Base Camp after they know what they have for funding.

As a result of this discussion, Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Tom Gorrill, to proceed with the feasibility study and, with no problematic issues, to move forward with the capital campaign.

Bruce Grant asked if the club leadership will take this topic to the membership at the annual meeting, to which Lester replied that such a move is possible but is not required. He added that having numbers could make a difference with how the general membership will react.

Tony Barrett expressed doubts about the cost estimates and concern that major donors might be skeptical because of the costs of buildings. Elsa noted that costs for a commercial building are very different from those of a residential structure. Lester added that the costs for the housing cabins have been problematic throughout the design process, but added that they're comparable to cabins Maine Huts and Trails has built.

After this brief discussion, Lester brought the motion to a vote, with 12 voting to approve, one abstaining and none against.

Maine Huts and Trails: Lester has not had a chance to meet with officials of Maine Huts and Trails because of the recent storm. Discussion of that group's proposed use of the AT was tabled until the next meeting.

Maintainers' Gathering and Winter Social: Lester reported that forty-eight maintainers attended the February 26 gathering. Twenty had e-mailed to say they planned to attend. Lester and others who attended the event expressed their

satisfaction with this first attempt to bring maintainers together.

The pot-luck Winter Social, held on the same day, was also well-attended. Several members of the Executive Committee commented favorably on the presentation of winter hiking experiences that Laura Flight and Peter Roderick delivered at the gathering.

Volunteer Recognition: Tony reported on the newest volunteer recognition program. The committee that created the recognition has named it the Walter D. Green Award, in honor of the first president of the club. Peter Roderick has called for nominations. He said that three people had contacted him and had nominated two people. He issued a final call for nomination by midnight on the following Monday.

Peter explained that the award will look like a trail sign. The Volunteer Recognition Committee, Tony, Don and Peter, will make the decision as to who will be selected. Lester suggested that the committee go ahead for this year, with a later review of the process for next year.

Nominations: Dave Field spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Those nominated are:

President, Lester Kenway; Vice president, Tony Barrett; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Corresponding Secretary, Dick Doucette; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Rick Ste. Croix, Ron Dobra, Peter Roderick, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Bob Cummings, Craig Dickstein, Laura Flight, Bruce Grant, Dan Simonds, Don Stack. Dave explained that the list published in the MAINEtainer includes Jack Gibson, trustee for Somerset Woods. Jack withdrew his nomination only days before this meeting. The club by-laws require publication of the slate in the club newsletter at least 30 days prior to the election. A vacant position may be filled by vote of the Executive Committee. Dave said that Rebecca Clark is willing to fill the vacant Director position. Under those circumstances, Dave recommended the position remain vacant at the time of the vote at the Annual Meeting, with the Executive Committee voting at its May meeting.

Maine Trail Finder: Ray Ronan, Chairman of the Guidebook Committee, has communicated with Steve Engle regarding the Maine Trail Finder on-line resource. Ray recommends that MATC allow MTF to list AT hikes on its web site. Ray believes it will be good for the club and will bring good exposure. He added that the club has no copyright on its publications, and other groups are free to include sections of the AT in information about hiking. Michelle Moody informed the Executive Committee that every group that gets RTP (Recreational Trails Program) money will require listing its resources.

Elsa expressed her concern that MATC will give MTF its descriptions, to which Ray answered that, in some cases, that would be true, but in other cases they have better information. Ray reminded that the advantage to the club for joining this endeavor is the information on trail conditions; the club logo is on the trails and MTF has information only on designated pieces. He suggested that the club give them the

information they request.

Stan Moody added that there's a lot of information available from a number of sources, and more will be added. By its participation, MATC will be able to control. Dave Field concurred; as the information is readily available, partnering with MTF allows MATC to ensure that the right kind of information carries the club logo. Lester suggested that the decision is not whether to join, but how.

Dave Field placed the following motion: that the Maine Appalachian Trail Club collaborate with Maine Trail Finder in accordance with the proposal put forth by Ray Ronan on the information sheet distributed to Executive Committee. Tony Barrett seconded the motion, and added a friendly amendment: with the proviso that MATC and MTF agree on sections to be included.

Bob Cummings said he endorses the proposal, as any exposure given the Trail is good.

Tony remarked that Maine Trail Finder will expose casual hikers to the AT and it might incorporate hikes that use our trail that we haven't included.

The vote of the Executive Committee in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Lester said he will talk with Steve Engle and will refer him to Ray and his committee.

Lester wants the Guidebook Committee to investigate the possibility of putting the MATC guidebook into a technological format.

Club Coordinator: Holly Sheehan reported she has submitted several proposals for grants since the January meeting, as well as several mini-grants to fund shelter roof replacement, back packs for the trail crew and sawing for cedar logs for bog bridging. She expects the Capacity Building Grant to focus on building membership. She has sent employment packets to the four summer employees hired for the CARE program. She has prepared a nomination for Bob Cummings for an Outdoor Hero Award. And she has corresponded with volunteers for the Maine Trail Crew; she reported that twenty-eight volunteer slots have been filled to date.

National Heritage Hikes: Dave Field reported that Don Cameron, from the Maine Natural Areas Program has contacted him to ask for MATC cooperation for his organization's plan to establish a web-based natural history guide for Maine's hiking trails.

Dave Field placed a motion, seconded by Bob Cummings, to cooperate with the Maine Natural Areas Program in the development of a Maine Natural Hikes web facility. The Executive Committee voted to approve the measure.

Waterfalls in Piscataquis County: Lester referred to correspondence from Roger Merchant regarding waterfalls in Piscataquis County. Roger wants to meet with Lester and Dave to see if MATC will support increased public access to waterfalls within and adjacent to the AT. The proposal highlights a natural resource, but Lester voiced concerns for safety. At this point, this is just an information item.

Appalachian Trail Hall of Fame: Dave Field spoke on the AT Hall of Fame. He had circulated information about the proposed nominations for the first members of the Hall of Fame. Tom Johnson was looking to Mainers to make nominations for some of the key figures in the history of the Trail.

Slide Show: Dave Field said he is putting together the slide show to accompany District Overseer reports at the Annual Meeting. He said he would send out a list of the slides for Overseers to check for correct maintainer identification. Dave also reported that an American Hiking Society crew will be available during the last full week of July to clear and paint boundary lines in Maine. ALDHA, the Appalachian Long Distance Hiking Association, is also interested in recruiting a volunteer crew to work on Maine boundary lines.

Archives: Dave reported that he continues to digitize MATC archives and hand them over to Ray. He expressed concern that the club doesn't have a plan for preserving the electronic records that have largely replaced letters and reports. He said he and Ray are trying to determine a way to deal with this issue.

District Overseers' Reports:

Tom Gorrill, Baldpate Overseer, complimented Lester and Elsa on their work preparing the first maintainer gathering.

Peter Roderick said the Kennebec District has submitted its budget for next summer to include several bog bridging projects.

Julian Wiggins had nothing to report for the White Cap District.

Rick Ste. Croix had no report for the Katahdin District.

Maine Trail Crew: Lester reported that the Trail Crew has four SCA interns for the summer season. All staff from last year are returning. Almost half the volunteer slots have been filled.

Campsite Committee: Laura Flight reported for the Campsite Committee. She said the campsite capacity review work is ongoing. The committee is planning to replace twelve lean-tos that have plastic "roofs" over the next four years.

Education Committee: Michelle Moody reported for the Education Committee. CPR and First Aid training is scheduled for April 10 at UMA. The session is open first to chainsaw workshop attendees.

Website Link: Lester referred to correspondence from Phil Pepin in which he requests a link on the MATC web site to his business. Bob Cummings placed a motion, seconded by Dave Field, to authorize such a link on the MATC web site.

Tony suggested that the club should examine this practice. Lester pointed out that club policy allows links to organizations that might be of interest to members. Tom Gorrill reiterated Tony's recommendation that the Executive Committee examine this

practice and formulate a policy.

The Executive Committee voted to accept the motion as stated.

Next Meeting: Lester announced that, with several complicated items on the agenda, the May meeting will require a face-to-face session. He will contact UMA to schedule meeting space. That meeting will take place on May 6.

With business completed, Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Bob Cummings, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Clain
Recording Secretary