

Maine Appalachian Trail Club
March 1, 2013
University of Maine, Augusta

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice President, Tony Barrett; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Rebecca Clark, Bruce Grant, Laura Flight, Dan Simonds, Don Stack; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Ron Dobra, Craig Dickstein, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill, Rick Ste. Croix; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; Historian, Ray Ronan; Fund Raising Counsel, Alicia Nichols.

Absent: Director, Bob Cummings

Rules regarding meetings: With weather conditions delaying the start of the meeting, President Lester Kenway led a brief discussion of Roberts Rules regarding meeting agendas. According to Roberts Rules, a panel can vote a time to end the meeting, which then supersedes the agenda. By this rule, the group can determine an end time in advance, and any unfinished business is then transferred to the next meeting. Lester asked for a motion to set an ending time for this meeting. There was some discussion, but not enough votes to carry the item.

Call to Order: President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report for the January 12 meeting. Dave Field signaled the following correction: on page 10 the reference to discussions with Carrier Transportation should indicate a conservation easement in the White Cap Range, not the West Branch of the Pleasant River. The reference to discussions in the Kennebec District regarding snow mobile encroachment at West Carry Pond should indicate that Craig Dickstein, not the Corridor Monitor, is working with law enforcement officials.

Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Laura Flight, to accept the Secretary's Report as amended. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn presented the latest Treasurer's Report. Tony Barrett signaled an error in note 1, which lists \$28,299 in prepaid expenses for two items; this should be one item for the capital campaign.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Dave Field, to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Budget: Elsa Sanborn also presented the proposed Budget for 2013-2014. It includes income of \$225,000 and \$235,000 in expenses. Elsa noted that this is a deficit budget, but explained that the club has generally been liberal in budgeting expenses and conservative in budgeting income, and finances usually balance. Lester explained that Piscataquis County didn't follow through on TIF funds that the club had expected;

The source of these funds is payment in lieu of taxes to Piscataquis County for National Park lands.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Craig Dickstein, to approve the proposed budget and take it to the Spring Meeting for approval by the club membership. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Maine Trail Center Update: Lester presented an update on the Maine Trail Center. He reiterated the history of the project, beginning with a proposal to the Executive Committee in January of 2006, and commented that the club has invested heavily in the project and needs go through the capital campaign process to recoup expenses. It's been a long process, which has seen a much needed public relations phase to raise awareness to the goals and the work of the club, and has included the work of Vreeland Marketing and establishment of the Friends of the Appalachian Trail in Maine.

Lester explained that the Executive Committee can set any goal it wants for its participation in the project. It will be incumbent on all board members to show support for the process; **every** member of the Executive Committee should make a donation they're comfortable with before the campaign goes into process. Dave Field added that, from personal experience on other boards, 100% participation is more important than a set figure.

Alicia Nichols reminded the group that the \$4.5 million figure includes a \$1.5 million maintenance endowment.

Dick Fecteau asked how much the club has spent to date, and Elsa gave figures amounting to just under \$40,000, plus fees for Alicia's services and the awareness campaign. She doesn't consider the awareness campaign as direct expenses for this project, as it was needed for the club in general, and the base camp proposal gave an impetus to set the process in motion. She also reminded that Holly and Alicia are making applications for grants for up to \$125,000 to cover expenses. The awareness campaign was also partly designed to elicit "leading gifts". Elsa feels that the campaign will eventually pay for itself. Dave Field reiterated that the awareness campaign was needed and has been an on-going issue since 1934.

Lester noted that the Vreeland contract closed out at the end of January, and that the Friends group is now providing efforts toward awareness. The newly reconstituted Communications Committee is now in charge of the Facebook and Twitter feeds. Lester has taken on the task of monitoring the e-mail blasts through mailchimp. In addition, Susan Tomkins has joined the club and has offered to send out publicity pro bono. We've learned to do for ourselves with the help of "training" by professionals.

Lester also announced that the Trail Crew Committee is actively searching for a new site for a temporary base camp because of concerns regarding the current landlord. They have visited three sites for rent. He said that, on average, rental properties have lasted us four years, which fits well with the time line for the Trail Crew Center. Elsa explained that the current base camp is costing the club \$8,800 including rent, utilities, and housing. Rent in Garland will be \$10,000 this year, so expenses will be considerably higher.

Lester explained that the base camp has stayed in the Dover / Dexter area to make use of YMCA facilities, in Dover, for showers. He said he wouldn't rule out other areas if they have that combination of space and access to services.

Dick Fecteau recommended buying land to resell later. He said he and Tom Gorrill have investigated three properties; if we own then we gain control, and can recoup money later when we sell. Bruce Grant warned that buying a base camp property could jeopardize justification for the Trail Crew Center project.

Friends of the Appalachian Trail in Maine Update: Alicia Nichols reported on the first event organized by the Friends of the Appalachian Trail in Maine, a presentation of trail photos, in Brunswick, by Carey Kish. She displayed a binder with positive publicity from the event. She said 91 people attended, 14 of whom were members of the Executive Committee or the Friends group. She couldn't tell how many of the others were club members and how many were general public. She recognized participation and support of the Executive Committee members and others involved in club operations. She also commented on the venue, which had certain social advantages but imposed limitations on attendance; due to fire code restrictions, some people had to be turned away.

The Friends committee planned to meet on March 7 to review the latest event and start organizing for the next. They now have a template, which will make planning and publicity easier in the future. They will need to determine who will speak, and where and when to hold the event. Becky Clark suggested that, in future, organizers ask attendees how they heard about the event.

Alicia expressed her thanks to Holly for collaboration on grant applications, which will bring in about \$120,000.

Other Updates

Maine AT Staff Position: Lester said Hawk Metheny has sent an e-mail with a draft job description for the new Maine ATC position and hopes to hire by the end of March.

Tony Barrett said that MATLT has plans to discuss how to use the new position. Lester offered to share the job description with others.

Wind Power Committee: Tony Barrett reported for the Wind Power Committee. He reminded that the Executive Committee reviewed draft legislation at the January meeting. The wind power bill recommended by MATC is still in the reviser's office, so as yet has no LD number, but has already raised a lot of discussion.

The Wind Power Committee met February 5 and discussed the legislation. As a large portion of the last MAINEtainer newsletter focused on wind power, the committee decided to have the bill sponsors place a copy of the club newsletter on the desk of each legislator.

Tony and Chris O'Neill met with the governor's policy advisor who was supportive; others in prominent positions were not so positive. Tony said they have a sense that the governor's office may not support wind power actively but will likely remain neutral, which is actually a positive from the club's perspective.

First Wind has presented its Bingham proposal for mitigation. The project, if completed, would be the largest to date, impacting a large section of the Barren - Chairback Range. The Wind Power Committee decided to oppose the project, and not to discuss mitigation. MATC, AMC and ATC met on the issue. AMC and ATC were at first more prone to consider mitigation, but agreed with MATC's position after the committee discussion. Some community discussions are also under way.

Bruce Grant clarified the location of this project, running from Monson and through Abbott and Parkman. He said the town of Monson wouldn't agree to let transmission lines cross its land.

In order to show Executive Committee solidarity with the Wind Power Committee position, Tony Barrett placed a motion that MATC oppose the Bingham wind power project. Bruce Grant seconded the motion. The vote of the Executive Committee was: thirteen supported the motion, one opposed, with three abstentions.

Teens to Trails: Ray Ronan and Holly Sheehan reported on Teens to Trails, which has established a partnership with the Maine Outdoor Film Festival on March 9, at Windham High School, and on May 4, at Cony High School. MATC is a sponsor and is donating items for a raffle. Rebecca Clark volunteered to help at the Cony event, while Ray, Holly, and Don Stack will help at Windham.

Maintainers' Gathering: Lester reported on the third annual Maintainer Gathering on February 23, which forty people attended.

Lester was able to e-mail maintainers using the current list, and only eight messages came back. If the e-mail came back, Lester sent a letter. Dave Field noted that, in future, Corridor Monitors should also receive invitations; while all members were invited to attend the Maintainers' Gathering, only maintainers received an invitation. Dave recommends sending a personal message to Corridor Monitors and publicizing the gathering to the full membership.

Some at this meeting expressed concern that the club has eliminated its winter social. The Maintainers' Gathering is a very different meeting from the original winter social. Elsa Sanborn noted that the winter social has only brought in about twenty people in last few years. Lester reminded that he asked for input at last year's gathering, and most preferred a day meeting with a pot luck luncheon. There was also the issue of filling the two hour gap between the two events.

Bruce Grant observed that the Friends Group may serve the purpose of a social gathering, though that's not the principal goal of Friends, which is to reach out to non-members. Tony recommended that we consider alternating between a social and a maintainers' meeting, and between central and southern Maine. Lester proposed a social and a maintainers meeting in 2014, but at different times and locations.

Membership Committee: Elsa Sanborn reported that the Membership Committee has been reviewing the data base of membership to make it easier to use. Elsa, Membership Chair, Melanie Coombs, and others have been working on this.

Club Coordinator's Report: Holly Sheehan referred to her Club Coordinator's report. She explained that about half her time is spent on writing grant proposals to support the Trail Crew and CARE programs. She also spends time working directly on behalf of the Trail Crew and CARE. The distribution of her time varies depending on the time of year. Elsa said she tracks the proportion of Holly's time to various programs, as she has to include the distribution for tax purposes.

Personnel Committee: Lester called for an Executive Session to discuss the Personnel Committee's annual review of the Club Coordinator.

Tom Gorrill placed a motion to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation. Don Stack seconded the motion. The Executive Committee approved the motion, with two abstentions.

Lester observed that CARE and the Trail Crew should be at same rate, and suggested that we may want to go back to the Personnel Committee for a revised recommendation for next year. He recommends \$12.50 for entry level, which is the case with most of the Trail Crew.

Lester recommends a discussion between the Personnel Committee and the heads of different programs.

Overseer Reports: Dave Field, Overseer of Lands, presented an update on corridor management. Alison Scheiderer has submitted an Americorps application and hopes to get a crew in New England to work on boundaries. Dave was not sure how the most recent government budget issues would impact this plan.

The recent change in government agency names, designating the AT as APPA, is causing problems with trying to update documents.

Dave has corresponded with Todd Remaley on the boat storage issue. The plan is still to make an inventory of boats, and place signs advising compliance with MATC policy. Dave is working to determine how to include this process in the LMP.

The 2012 Corridor Monitor Report is posted on the club web site.

Dave has scheduled two Corridor Monitor workshops for June.

Rick Ste Croix reported that the Katahdin District has two openings. Both sections are remote and difficult to access.

Ron Dobra, reporting on the White Cap District, spoke of a couple of interesting meetings. MATC representatives have met with AMC to discuss a new trail to Little Wilson Falls. AMC is looking to build the "bottom" part of the trail. The project is currently on hold. Roxanne Quimby's manager was agreeable to building a parking lot for trail access. The Piscataquis Country tourism group wants the trail, which AMC would build. Lester said that MATC informed the Piscataquis group that they would have to make their proposal at this meeting, and they didn't take action. Their next opportunity is in October.

Ron has also met with the forester for Carrier Lands. They want to disburse 6000 acres, either fee simple or a conservation easement for lands and developing access to

trails. This includes access to the White Brook Trail, and Pugwash Pond / Gulf Hagas, and replacing bridges that would provide easier access for maintainers and Trail Crew.

Craig Dickstein reported that the Kennebec District has had only one resignation (Horse Shoe Canyon trail and lean-to). He has reaffirmed commitment from all his maintainers.

Dick Fecteau reported on the Bigelow District. Bog Brook beaver flowage has caused flooding. Holly asked for Grants to Clubs monies for the bridge.

Dennis Andrews spoke of harvesting in progress, and said cutters were very cognizant of the visual impact of their work; Dennis saw no signs of work to impact hikers.

Tom Gorrill said the Baldpate District has one opening, the Bemis Stream Trail.

CARE Report: Dan Simonds reported for CARE, which has hired three caretakers / ridge runners for the summer. Steve Masse will return to Piazza Rock, Augie Buchheit, who has considerable experience in Shenandoah, will be at Gulf Hagas, and Ian Fitzmorris, a graduate of Boston College with two seasons with AMC in New Hampshire, will be at Horns Pond. The CARE committee will meet soon to confer on plans for training and logistics for the summer season.

Nominating Committee Report: Laura Flight presented the slate of candidates for club offices as compiled by the Nominating Committee, composed of Laura, Bruce Grant and Milt Wright. Nominees are: President, Lester Kenway; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain, Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Corresponding Secretary, Doug Dolan; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Rick Ste. Croix, Ron Dobra, Craig Dickstein, Richard Fecteau, Tom Gorrill; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Bob Cummings, Tony Barrett, Laura Flight, Rebecca Clark, Bruce Grant, Dan Simonds, Don Stack.

They still need a nominee for Vice President, having received 10-12 refusals. The by-laws are vague about the Vice President's position. Most of those who refused the position were concerned that they would be forced into the President's chair.

Dave Field stated that the President has traditionally come from among the Overseers. Lester suggested drafting a job description for the VP position, and reminded that we've had that position open in the past.

Dave Field placed a motion, seconded by Don Stack, to accept the slate as submitted, with the condition that, if a Vice Presidential candidate comes forward, to handle approval through e-mail. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion. The slate will now go to the club membership at the Spring Meeting.

Maine Trail Crew Report: Ron Dobra reported on the Maine Trail Crew. The Trail Crew Committee has received 60 applications for internships and interviewed six. At the time of this meeting, one crew leader and one assistant had been hired; some

who were offered places later withdrew. Three SCA interns were in place at the time of this meeting. The coordinator from last year is returning.

Committee Structure: Lester referred to a handout that describes proposed changes to the MATC Standing Committee Structure. Several of these committees have limited duties and meet infrequently. Lester feels that there are too many tasks for some of the committees we have, so recommends bundling charges.

The State Lands Partnership Committee meets once a year with representatives from Baxter State Park and the Bigelow Preserve to review trails and corridor management issues. The MATC representative is usually the District Overseer.

The Communications Committee has been in place but with a limited charge; that charge has been expanded as a result of the PR work the club has done in the last year, and now includes sending out mass e-mails. Lester recommends reviewing and formalizing the charge. Dan Simonds said he is interested in chairing the committee, but wants time to contact people and consider the position.

The Guidebook Committee title has been changed to Publications.

Bruce Grant reminded that the club voted in November to establish a Community Outreach Committee, which is in line with ATC's promotion of and funding for community outreach. To date, no formal description has been written. That committee needs to be described and entered into the LMP. Bruce said there is a meeting for those interested in that committee on April 19 in Farmington.

Dave Field said the Emergency Management and Corridor Management Committees should be eliminated.

Lester called for a motion to accept the changes he proposed in his correspondence, with exceptions of the Communications Committee and the addition of a description for the Community Outreach Committee. Tom Gorrill placed that motion, seconded by Ron Dobra. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Lester said he is waiting for results from a poll on the membership form to find people to fill committees.

Member Recognition: Tony Barrett spoke on awards to club members. He, Don Stack and Peter Roderick have worked as a committee to provide recognition for hours of service and for outstanding contributions to the club. They are looking for nominations for the Walter D. Greene award, which was established two years ago to promote participation and to recognize someone who has gone beyond expectations. The committee had received two nominations and the deadline was March 10.

The committee is now proposing a President's Award, to recognize long term service. They envision something beyond honorary membership, a sort of lifetime achievement award, to be selected at the discretion of the President. Tony said he would send an e-mail to outline the committee's ideas.

Membership Structure: Ron Dobra spoke on membership categories, as presented at the last meeting. He suggested adding a junior or youth membership, for ages 14-17. Ron placed a motion, seconded by Bruce Grant, to establish a youth

membership. Craig Dickstein questioned whether a 14-17 year old would get enough benefit to warrant paying dues and formal membership. 18 is the age limit for working on the Trail Crew and working unsupervised, but younger people can get out on the trail with school work trips and adult supervision.

Elsa Sanborn suggested giving this idea to the Membership Committee and bringing it back to a future meeting. Ron and Bruce withdrew their motion.

Ron said he has other ideas, but will pass them through the Membership Committee.

Spring Meeting: Lester explained that Susan Tompkins recommended calling the Annual Meeting a Spring Meeting, and he is now using that terminology.

The new format for that meeting has all required reports published in advance in the MAINEtainer, with a brief question and answer period at the Spring Meeting. This will allow for more time for an open forum, which gives general membership an opportunity to express their own ideas regarding the club.

This year's format will include two concurrent workshops, with a guest speaker, in break out sessions. Lester asked for suggestions for topics and guest speakers. One suggestion was for a panel to provide tips for hiking the Trail. Rebecca Clark agreed to take on that task. Another suggestion was on becoming a trail maintainer, and Laura Flight volunteered for that task.

Craig questioned the time allotted for District Overseer meetings. Rick Ste. Croix suggested having district meetings at the Maintainers' Gathering and omitting District Overseer meetings at the full gathering.

Maine Huts and Trails Request: Maine Huts and Trails is planning a hut on Sugarloaf Corporation land. They are asking for two possible access trails that impact the AT. One trail parallels and then crosses the Trail; the other parallels the Carrabassett River. This means two trail crossings.

MHT assures that these are ungroomed trails; any grooming would be on the Caribou Valley Road, over which we have no jurisdiction. MHT needs MATC approval for crossing the Trail, after which they can go to the New England Regional Partnership Committee, which will likely resolve the issue.

To a question regarding mountain bikes, Lester said MHT's Larry Warren understands there are no mountain bikes on the Trail; they may be used on the Caribou Valley Road. MHT would let MATC members, such as maintainers, stay at their hut, as any other paying guest, to take meals and showers. The new trail would also give us a high water alternative.

Dave Field placed a motion, seconded by Bruce Grant, to approve the River Valley Trail, with the proviso that there are no signs that are counter to AT restrictions.

Dick Fecteau is strongly opposed to any partnership with Maine Huts and Trails. He sees no rush as MHT won't construct soon. Lester said they wanted to get into the March queue.

Dave and Bruce withdrew their motion.

With all business concluded, Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Dick Fecteau, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Janice Clain
Recording Secretary