

Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Executive Committee Meeting
March 3, 2017

Present: Vice President, Mike Ewing; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Corresponding Secretary, Doug Dolan; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Tony Barrett, Laura Flight, Bruce Grant, Audrey Laffely, Sherri Langlais, Don Stack, Dick Welsh; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Ron Dobra, Tom Gorrill; ATC Director, Hawk Metheny (by phone); Finance Committee Chair, Tom Lewis; Maintainer, Richard Gower; Campaign Director, Alicia Nichols. Absent: President, Lester Kenway; District Overseers, Craig Dickstein, Dick Fecteau, Rick Ste. Croix; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan.

Vice President Mike Ewing called the meeting to order at 6:57 pm.

Recording Secretary's Reports: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report for the November 4, 2016 meeting. Executive Committee members had not received the minutes in time to examine them for the January meeting.

Dave Field placed a motion to accept November minutes as distributed. Bruce Grant seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Janice also presented the minutes if the January 14 minutes. Dave Field made a correction to his comments as Overseer of Lands. Weyerhauser, which now operates the former Plum Creek lands, does not pay its employees to volunteer; it pays MATC \$500 for each of their employees who volunteer their time to the club.

Bruce Grant placed a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Doug Dolan seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn spoke to the Treasurer's Report. She wasn't able to provide all the notes that usually accompany the report. She reported that grants that have been awarded require an acknowledgement before money goes through officially. She also noted some differences as the club has moved to using the Quick Books program.

Mike Ewing accepted the Treasurer's Report on behalf of the Executive Committee.

2017 – 2018 Budget: Tom Lewis presented the revised draft of the 2017 – 2018 budget. The Finance Committee added the cost for printing a new guide book and maps; the club has a guidebook reserve account which will offset the entry in the budget. The committee also added funds for overseers for bog bridging and it includes funds for two moldering privies. Tom assured that the budget is close to balanced.

The Finance Committee needs the approval of the Executive Committee at this meeting so it can present it to the full membership at the annual meeting.

Tony Barrett placed a motion to approve the proposed budget. Bruce Grant seconded the motion.

To questions about the Longley property entry, Tom explained that these are costs for taxes and insurance.

With discussions concluded, the Executive Committee voted to approve the budget proposal.

The club audit by Purdy Powers is complete and the Finance Committee is in the process of reviewing it. One of the recommendations of the initial audit was a separation of financial duties. As a result, the club has hired a part time bookkeeper, Christina Strubbe. She is based in Portland and has good experience. Tom and Elsa planned to meet with her the week after this meeting. Because the bookkeeper will handle deposits and receipts, reimbursement vouchers will have to be more specific and detailed.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Doug Dolan gave his Corresponding Secretary's update. He has not received a lot of communication, mostly people interested in seasonal positions, and some wanting to post their advertisements on the club's web site, which the club does not allow.

Nominating Committee Report: Mike Ewing gave an update for the Nominating Committee. Ron Dobra has agreed to stay as White Cap Overseer for another year. The Nominating Committee will continue to seek people who are interested in being an overseer. Ron and Mike recommend that MATC devise a plan to recruit people to fill positions.

ATC Report: Hawk Metheny updated the Executive Committee on ATC actions.

Baxter State Park has made some revisions to its permit system. They have added quotas for long-distance hikers at just over 3000; when that number is reached, hikers will have to go through the same process as regular day use or overnight campers. This represents a quota but not a cap; long distance hikers may still have access to the park, but in a different way.

Hawk explained that visitor management staff is creating a frequently asked questions list. He emphasized the need to continue to educate hikers along the trail.

The Monson Visitor Center is looking at two possible locations in the town.

Hawk spoke to a review of job descriptions for seasonal boundary staff and the Maine Field Coordinator. ATC has received several applications and planned to start interviews the same week as this meeting. He and Claire will include Lester after the first round. They have posted the Monson visitor center and ridge runner positions and have had several applicants.

Regarding the hazard tree project, ATC is developing an app to record observations. They are creating an inventory of hazard trees. They are working with a GIS coordinator.

Holly and Claire are working on outreach to camp groups through CARE. ATC is also investigating a method to evaluate campsite capacity.

ATC is negotiating with Greg Caruso to provide ferry services at the Kennebec again.

Hawk reported on the Maine Youth Trail Stewardship Coalition, which would meet the following weekend in Norway.

ATC has instituted the position of Director of Volunteer Relations, whose work will coordinate ATC policies and efforts with those of club leaders and agency partners.

Leann Joyner will fill that position and planned to attend the March 18 NE RPC meeting. ATC has also hired a Director of Congressional and Federal Affairs, whose work will focus on outside threats. That person, Lynne Davis, also planned to attend the NERPC meeting.

ATC Biennial Maine Conference: Tony Barrett reported for the 2017 Maine Conference. Tom Gorrill and Holly Sheehan have joined the Steering Committee. ATC has signed the Colby contract and paid its next down payment. The Steering Committee is making a final review of the registration packet and is working on volunteer recruitment.

Wind Power and Power Lines Committee Report: Tony Barrett reported for the Wind Power and Power Lines Committee. The committee is working on the club's proposed piece of legislation, which Tom Windsor is sponsoring. The bill is out of the reviser's office, and has added several co-sponsors. Tony expected the bill to have an LD number by the following week, and a public hearing was scheduled for late March, or early April.

Communications Committee Report: Reporting for the Communications Committee, Doug Dolan showed examples of the current brochure which costs .98, and an example of a new brochure that costs less than .35, including shipping. The difference is the paper and size/format.

Regarding the club website, Doug reminded that Dave Theoharides is willing and able to keep postings updated if we keep him informed. Dave is currently working through the recommended changes cataloged by Holly and Tony, such as the group registration page. Laura Flight also has editor rights.

Doug cautioned that the Word Press platform is not super secure. Lester will approve investigating a new platform that will be more easily updated and more useful.

Campsite Committee Report: Laura Flight reported for the Campsite Committee. Suzanne Goulet, digital print media instructor at Waterville High School, volunteered her class to make signs for privies as well as for the biennial meeting

Claire was able to obtain \$15,000 for two privies, at Horns Pond and Nahmakanta Stream, including airlifting materials. The club plans to buy materials this year, and build next year, in 2018.

CARE Committee Report: Audrey Laffely reported for the CARE Committee. Their hiring sub-committee was interviewing candidates, and one person was committed and ready to sign a contract.

Club Coordinator Report: Holly Sheehan was unable to attend this meeting, and e-mailed her report. It included submission of several grant applications, mostly for funds for materials, work with volunteers for the Maine Trail Crew, work on the group outreach subcommittee of CARE, participation in the Maine Youth Stewardship Coalition, and a review of the MATC website.

The Executive Committee moved to Executive Session to discuss the annual review of the Club Coordinator by the club President and the Personnel Committee. Mike Ewing pointed out that the job description was recently modified.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Don Stack, to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation in regards to the Club Coordinator's annual review.

With discussion ended, the Executive Committee accepted the motion by voice vote.

Maine Trail Crew Report: Ron Dobra reported on the Maine Trail Crew. Margaret Snell and Lester Kenway were able to hire the two assistant crew leaders from last year to be crew leaders. They planned to interview assistant crew leaders the following week. Two interns are also in place.

Base camp opens May 20, with site visits scheduled for the end of May. The first project is for three weeks in Baxter State Park. Other projects include Long Pond Stream, Gulf Hagas Mountain, the Pleasant River Tote Road, Little Wilson Falls, and Rainbow Lake.

Overseer of Lands Report: Dave Field reported as Overseer of Lands. He has revised corridor monitor assignments so that they more closely correspond to maintainer assignments. He just finished his annual report. He hopes to assign the last of the vacant sections at the annual meeting.

District Overseers Reports:

Tom Gorrill had nothing new to report on the Baldpate District. He is gathering materials to pass along to Mike Ewing.

Ron Dobra reported for the White Cap District. He and several AMC members moved 99 planks of bog bridging by snowmobile for the Pleasant River Tote Road project. Some are still a mile from the end where they will be needed.

Trail Champions Report: Alicia Nichols spoke for the Trail Champions Committee. The Campaign Committee has increased with the additions of Ned Claxton and Will Hunter. New Executive Committee members will be invited to contribute to the campaign to whatever extent they can; it is very important to show 100% support.

NERPS Meeting: The Spring NERPC was scheduled for March 18, in New Hampshire. Mike Ewing, Don Stack and Tony Barrett planned to attend. They would need to make a report about what the club has been doing and they would need volunteer hours numbers.

With all discussions concluded, Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Tom Gorrill, to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Clain
Recording Secretary
April 11, 2017