

Maine Appalachian Trail Club
March 6, 2015
UMA

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice President, Mike Ewing; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Corresponding Secretary, Doug Dolan; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Tony Barrett, Bob Cummings, Bruce Grant, Laura Flight, Sherri Langlais, Don Stack; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Craig Dickstein, Ron Dobra, Tom Gorrill; Finance Committee Chair, Tom Lewis; Guidebook Editor, Ray Ronan; Biennial Committee member, Nancy Grant; MATC Campaign Director, Alicia Nichols; Guest representing the Maine Department of Transportation, Larry Johannesman.

Absent: Director, Dan Simonds; District Overseers, Dick Fecteau, Rick Ste. Croix.

President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report for the January 11 meeting. Laura Flight sent a correction via e-mail. The description of specifications for a handicapped accessible privy should indicate that a transfer platform and a ramp are required.

Lester questioned the procedure that has developed with the advent of e-mail. Those on the mailing list have sent corrections as soon as they read the minutes and Janice has made corrections and then described them at the time of the meeting. Lester asked what the best way to handle corrections is. Dave Field reminded the group that minutes have legal status and they should be accurate. Doug Dolan gave his opinion that the Executive Committee should continue to review changes at the next meeting and then call for approval, and Lester agreed.

Tony Barrett called for several changes in the wording of the section on wind power. The sentence that includes the word "fight" should state: "Tony presented a graphic that shows the change in the heights and numbers of turbines since the beginning of the visual impact along the AT. Tony cautioned that MATC has devoted a lot of money and manpower to protect the trail from improper sitings..." In the sentence that refers to LD 1147, strike clause after "addressed cumulative impact." Insert the word scenic before resources, and continue "To that end, Tom Windsor, on behalf of MATC and AMC, has submitted a new LD bill." Strike the rest of that sentence. Remove the entire paragraph that begins "As a reminder.."

With these corrections made, Dave Field placed a motion, seconded by Bob Cummings to accept the Secretary's Report. The Executive Committee approved the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn explained that the Treasurer's Report was late coming out and that she will distribute it at a later date. She asked that any

questions regarding club monies be directed to her. The Executive Committee agreed to receive the report at a later date.

MDOT Route 17 Height of Land Proposal: Larry Johannesman presented a proposal from the Department Of Transportation for a conservation walk and outdoor interpretive exhibit at the scenic turnout at the Height of Land on Route 17. Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust is a partner in the project and currently owns the land. Larry seeks input from MATC for messages to include in the display and guidance regarding whether to make a connector trail to the AT.

The Executive Committee generally favored the concept, although there was not a consensus regarding whether to build a connection from the display to the AT; any new trail would require a NEPA review. There was also a question about uniformity of signage.

Announcements: The next chain saw workshop is scheduled for April 18 and 19 at Parker Brothers lot in Bradford.

The Annual Meeting will take place on April 11 at Bates College Schaefer Theater. An agenda and other details will appear in the next MAINetainer newsletter. Bob Cummings set a March 9 deadline for articles for the next newsletter. Committee reports will be published to not to take up a lot of time at the meeting.

MATC Budget for 2015: Tom Lewis made comments on the proposed operating budget. He signaled changes since the Executive Committee reviewed the budget proposal at the January meeting. He noted an increase of \$2000 in the amount for trails and structures, bringing that figure to \$17,000. The Finance Committee added a contingency amount for the Biennial under administration. Tom re-announced that the club is engaging an auditing firm to review books and procedures. He referred to figures in the column for the Trail Center and explained that they will be covered by the capital campaign. He also noted that only \$20,000 of funding has been approved, not \$30,000 as shown under sources of funding.

The budget figure the Finance Committee is asking the Executive Committee to approve is \$359,596. Bruce Grant placed the motion, seconded by Tony Barrett, to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

The Finance Committee will present a general summary of the budget at the Annual Meeting to secure must approval by the general membership.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Corresponding Secretary, Doug Dolan, reported that there has been very little activity. He has received only two messages. One was from a mother in Dexter looking for employment for her sixteen-year-old son. Lester explained that the club cannot hire youth.

Longley Property Recommendation: The committee investigating actions for the Longley property has had input from Sue Wilbur, Steve Longley's partner. Their

wish was to have the location serve hikers. MATLT has visited the property, and explained how to place conservation easements with varying degrees of protection. ATC is not interested in using it for current ferryman, who still has two years on his contract.

Any proceeds of sale would go to Trail Center and be recognized in the donor display there. The committee has formed a four point plan: secure a conservation easement; put the property on the market; vet any potential buyers; transfer any proceeds of the sale to the Trail Center and recognize Longley's generous donation.

Discussion at this meeting centered on the benefits of leasing the property rather than selling, and whether the process of securing a conservation easement and then vetting all potential buyers would delay sale and lower the price. Tom Gorrill recommends an appraisal, which would cost \$500.

Tony Barrett placed a motion, seconded by Dave Field, to pursue actions as described in the report of Longley Property Committee. Craig Dickstein questioned the recommendation to vet the buyer, and Dave Field agreed. Craig placed a motion to amend the original motion to remove the paragraph beginning with "thirdly". Tom Gorrill seconded that motion. The Executive Committee voted to approve the amendment, with Bob Cummings abstaining. The Executive Committee then voted to accept the amended motion to proceed with the process described by the Longley Property Committee, with fifteen in favor and one opposed.

Biennial Committee Report: Tony Barrett and Sherri Langlais reported for the Biennial Committee. AMC has accepted MATC's invitation to co-chair the event. Colby College offers the best combination of factors for a venue, including location, proximity to trails and excursion destinations, housing, and facilities. That recommendation has been sent to ATC, and the committee is waiting for a decision. The committee has chosen *Views From the Maine Woods* as the theme, which fits the ATC Strategic Plan. The committee has sent the theme to ATC, which will then create a design logo. The next step is to work on forming sub-committees.

Communications Committee Report: Doug Dolan reported for the Communications Committee and progress on the new brochure. The next Communications Committee meeting was scheduled for the following Wednesday, March 11. They were having difficulty finding pictures of routine maintenance. The committee's goal is to have the brochure ready for April 11.

Public Relations: Susan Tompkins distributed her report on public relations. The club's followers on media outlets continue to increase. The club's donation of guidebooks to high school outing clubs has generated significant positive PR.

CARE Committee: There was no report for CARE. Tom Gorrill reported that they have hired two out of three caretaker / ridge runners, and sent the third offer out on the day of this meeting.

Maine Trail Center / Capital Campaign: Alicia Nichols reported for the Maine Trail Center project. The review of names generated last fall is ongoing. Twenty-one people, mostly outside the club, are helping to review the names of people to form capital campaign committee.

Alicia and Lester have been talking to Hawk Metheny on how ATC can help the campaign beyond its financial contributions.

A set of architectural renderings have been created. They include five drawings, some in pdf format that we can send to others. These will be on display at the annual meeting in April.

Club Coordinator Update: Holly Sheehan sent her Club Coordinator's update. She was not able to attend this meeting as she was at the youth summit sponsored by ATC.

Overseer of Lands Report: Dave Field reported as Overseer of Lands that he had just finished the corridor monitor report for 2014 and that it will soon be posted on the club web site.

District Overseer Reports: Tom Gorrill, reporting on the Baldpate district, has one opening, on the Grafton Loop Trail. Tom has been researching the GLT and has met with representatives of the Mahoosuc Land Trust, which has a small section on the GLT. Research shows there have been no agreements with landowners along the GLT; the club really doesn't have permission to have a trail on these lands. Tom hopes to have another meeting with concerned entities.

Lester added that it's difficult to keep maintainer morale and commitment if there's no assurance of continuity and being of value to the bigger entity.

Craig Dickstein, Kennebec District Overseer, said his report for the 2014 season is coming out soon. He is hearing reports of significant damage along the Trail from winter weather.

Ron Dobra said his report for the White Cap District is on the web site. He hopes it will be published in the next MAINEtainer. He has four openings, and is considering whether to dismiss maintainers who haven't been out.

Community Outreach Committee Report: Bruce Grant reported for the Community Outreach Committee. He met with the Monson Town Manager. He has set a meeting April 9, 11-3, to work on plans for events for the summer.

Shaw's Boarding House in Monson has new owners, the daughter and son-in-law of Jamie Renaud, who operates the AT Lodge, in Millinocket. Bruce plans to meet with hostel owners, who have agreed to be present at the MATC annual meeting.

The Community Outreach Committee is planning presentations of MATC trail guides to schools, with some positive PR.

Proposed Employee Agreement for Personal Services: Lester presented a proposed employee agreement for personal services, which combines and updates

agreements used for both Trail Crew and CARE employees, and that includes guidelines for use of media and photos made by club employees. The new guidelines define who owns media and photos made by club employees, not volunteers. Doug Dolan explained that this establishes a copyright. Some at this meeting questioned the proposal as too controlling and too severe for a seasonal employee. Others pointed out that the basic document is not significantly changed, but has an added paragraph 7 that defines acceptable uses of digital media.

After some further discussion of the proposed document, Ron Dobra placed a motion, seconded by Craig Dickstein, to approve the document excluding everything in sections 7b - 7h for seasonal employees. The Executive Committee voted in favor of the motion, with one opposed and one abstained.

Lester explained that the Trail Crew and CARE Committees have operated as separate entities; this document and agreement provide consistent policies for both entities. He reiterated that this will NOT pertain to volunteers / maintainers.

Trail Crew Committee Report: Ron Dobra reported for the Trail Crew Committee. They have been screening applicants and interviewing for the season's positions. Seven offers have gone out and they are waiting for replies. Volunteers will open the Trail Crew base camp on the island in Dover-Foxcroft on May 16.

Annual Club Coordinator Review: The Executive Committee met in executive session to discuss Club Coordinator Holly Sheehan's annual review. She has just finished her tenth year in the position. Bruce Grant said the personnel committee used an evaluation tool it had developed.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Sherri Langlais, to accept the recommendation of the personnel committee. The Executive Committee voted its approval, with one abstention.

Bureau of Public Parks and Lands Proposal: Lester referred to communications from Rex Turner regarding a proposal from the Bureau of Parks and Lands for a new connector trail near Barren Mountain, to be called the Blue Ridge Hike & Bike Trail. Dave Field says this is what he laid out for Plum Creek in 2006.

Rex is working on plans and hopes to have construction complete in 2018. BPL is looking to make a big loop. Rex wants MATC's reaction and thoughts about connecting to the AT. The parts of the trail south of the KI road would be hiking only, and those north of KI road and at a distance from any AT access would be for biking.

Bob Cummings placed a motion to call for further careful study, with discussion at the May meeting. Craig Dickstein seconded the motion. Ron Dobra and Dave Field agreed to study the proposal and report back at the next Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Nomination Committee Recommendation for Term Limits: The Nomination committee shared a term limits proposal, which calls for a three term limit for positions on the Executive Committee. Attendees at this meeting acknowledged that

land management duties make MATC different from other groups, and that there is a benefit to institutional knowledge. Some at this meeting did favor a suggestion by the nominating committee to increase the number of directors on the Executive Committee; such a change would bring in new members with new ideas, but would also keep the expertise of those who have held positions for many years. Dave Field noted that all the board positions require willingness to do the job.

Bob Cummings placed a motion to table the discussion and bring it to a later meeting, placing it earlier on the agenda to give it the consideration it needs. Craig Dickstein seconded the motion.

The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Craig Dickstein offered his opinion that this is an open meeting to which anyone can come; he would like to see non-traditional members, including members from other partner agencies.

Elsa Sanborn distributed copies of the club's tax return.

With all business completed, Mike Ewing placed a motion, seconded by Elsa Sanborn, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Recording Secretary
Janice Clain