

Maine Appalachian Trail Club
March 7, 2014
University of Maine Augusta

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, Laura Flight, Bruce Grant, Sherri Langlais, Don Stack; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Craig Dickstein, Ron Dobra, Tom Gorrill; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; Guidebook Editor, Ray Ronan; ATC Regional Director, Claire Polfus; Capital Campaign Director, Alicia Nichols.

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

President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 6:57 pm.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report of the January 25 meeting. Ron Dobra commented positively on the summary of the discussion of the Wilson Falls trail. With no additions or corrections, Don Stack placed a motion, seconded by Tom Gorrill, to approve the Secretary's report. The Executive Committee voted to accept the report.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn referred to the Treasurer's Report, which had been e-mailed to Executive Committee members. She noted that references to the capital campaign are included, in particular Executive Committee campaign pledges designated on the statement of income; all funds collected for the capital campaign are currently in the club money market account. With these brief explanations, Craig Dickstein placed a motion, seconded by Dave Field, to accept the Treasurer's Report. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Longley Property: On a financial matter discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting, Lester had received deeds for the buildings bequeathed to MATC by Steve Longley and would soon receive the deed for the land property. The club will have to pay taxes and insurance as soon as it accepts those deeds, and Lester will research options for dealing with those expenses. Lester recommended the formation of an ad hoc committee to research options for the property. The club by-laws give the president authority to establish committees for specific purposes. Lester suggested that the committee meet at another venue and include non-executive committee members.

Ron Dobra placed a motion to authorize Lester Kenway to establish an ad-hoc committee to investigate options for the Longley property. Bruce Grant seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

2014 Budget: Elsa Sanborn presented the budget prepared by Tom Lewis and with revisions since the last meeting. She noted that there is still a deficit of \$8,000, with revenues about the same as in the past. Holly Sheehan noted that there are more grants secured than noted on the budget, and Lester agreed that the deficit will be eliminated

when any more grants come in. Ron Dobra asked for clarification of the entry for private support from individuals, and Elsa explained that it is mostly from the general appeal, which is down this year as the club sent out fewer letters. Ron observed that the club overspent by a considerable amount this year and still budgeted the same for next. Elsa explained that MATC has spent a lot on public relations and wind power and added that the budget is done with the best information and in advance, so it can't be precise. Ron questioned if what the club expects to spend is realistic, to which Lester replied that expenses for fixed items are usually about the same from year to year; the public relations campaign has been a sizable expense, but has been worth it for its support in several initiatives, such as wind power and the Trail Center. He added that budgets have run a deficit for the last few years, but that they usually balance over the long run. In addition, it's a benefit having the same person preparing the budget year after year for the expertise and the consistency. He reminded that the budget must be accepted by the Executive Committee and then will be presented at the Spring Meeting.

Bruce Grant placed a motion to approve the proposed budget and present it to the general membership at the Spring Meeting. Bob Cummings seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Maintainer and Corridor Monitor Gathering: The annual maintainer gathering, held on February 22, was well attended. Lester asked for input on the choice of location for the event. He chose the Augusta site to accommodate both maintainers and corridor monitors, without considering that there is an overlap, and many maintainers are also corridor monitors. The Skowhegan site used for earlier gatherings is smaller and the Augusta VFW facility, which is big enough to host a large crowd. The Augusta site is more centrally located, but the Skowhegan site is closer to the proposed Trail Center and offers access to cross-country ski trails at Skowhegan High School.

Lester turned the discussion to the purpose of a club gathering. The formerly held Winter Social gave club members an opportunity to meet and make social connections with other club members. The maintainer gathering serves an educational and social purpose, but the general membership has been left out. Dave Field reminded that the Winter Social used to include outdoor activities and a presentation. He suggested that an education program followed by a social event might serve the needed purpose. Lester remembered that club organizers planned such a schedule one year, but a three hour gap between sessions was not well received. He added that both events are important for the club, and it might be better to combine them than to have two separate events.

Bruce Grant asked if we can combine a winter social with a Friends event, and Lester replied that the Friends events are on hiatus because of the capital campaign, but that he would like to revive that idea later. He suggested for future planning setting a maintainer gathering starting midday followed immediately by a social event.

Club Coordinator Update: Holly Sheehan presented an update on her work as club coordinator. At this time of year, most of her effort goes to fund raising; she has filed applications for a number of grants, mostly to support the Maine Trail Crew and CARE. She has worked to recruit volunteers for the Maine Trail Crew, which already had about

half its volunteer slots filled. She has also served as resource person for the ridge runners and caretakers who will be at Piazza Rock, Horns Pond and Gulf Hagas.

Club Coordinator Review: With non-members not present, the Executive Committee discussed the annual Club Coordinator review. Lester completed an employee review and shared his observations. Elsa Sanborn explained that the overall increase is modest, and that Tom Lewis had not been informed in time to include it in the budget proposal.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Don Stack, to approve the recommendation of the Personnel Committee. The Executive Committee voted to accept the motion.

Lester commended Holly for her work and added that she has been with the club for ten years and that she and her family were recently recognized by the Portland Trails Association for their contributions to its trails.

Trail Center Update: Alicia Nichols gave an update on the Trail Center project. She reminded the group that the capital campaign is still in the "quiet phase", soliciting financial commitment from Executive Committee members and researching potential large donors. Any information shared among the Executive Committee is for this group and not for publication.

In December and January, Lester selected and Alicia trained a Solicitation Committee, composed of Lester Kenway, Elsa Sanborn, Craig Dickstein and Bruce Grant, to contact each member of the Executive Committee to secure its financial commitment. The Solicitation Committee will continue to make contact with Executive Committee members on an individual basis, until commitment reaches 100%.

Alicia has sent a letter of inquiry to the Next Generation Foundation, established by the daughter of a wealthy philanthropist in Blue Hill. MATC will be notified by May 1 if it is invited to submit a full application for a one million dollar grant. She and Lester planned to meet on March 19 with Hawk Metheny and Claire Polfus to update them on the Maine Trail Center Capital Campaign and determine what assistance ATC may be able to provide the club.

Alicia called on members of the Executive Committee Solicitation Committee to share their experiences. Lester said he was received warmly by all the Executive Committee members he contacted. Elsa said her calls gave her the opportunity to get to know a couple of people. She still needed to get back to a couple members. Craig reported good experiences with his contacts; though each had concerns, all agreed to support the campaign and to honor the consensus of the Executive Committee on the project. Bruce had not yet started his calls.

Alicia listed the next steps in the process: to confirm construction costs with firm numbers; to secure additional high quality architectural renderings; to conduct wealth screening to identify prospective volunteers and lead donors; to craft the campaign plan and volunteer leadership roles and responsibilities; to identify, with input from Lester and the Executive Committee, vet and recruit capital campaign committee members; to train and solicit the capital campaign committee. She reminded that no outside donation solicitations will be made until the campaign committee is in place.

Tony Barrett recalled earlier discussions regarding design and cost, and suggested contacting Maine Huts and Trails to make comparisons with the housing they use. He spoke of contacts there who have connections with Renner Architects. Lester explained that it's not about redesigning, but about proofing the plans already in place.

Craig Dickstein asked if there was any plan to reconvene the Building Committee, and Lester responded that they should do so when they move further forward.

Campsite Committee Update: Laura Flight reported briefly for the Campsite Committee. Because a site evaluator has not been available to complete an archeological investigation for the proposed Nahmakanta Stream campsite, they won't be building a lean-to there this year. Those plans have been hampered by the lack of a qualified site evaluator.

Public Relations Updates: Susan Tompkins sent a public relations update to all members of the Executive Committee. Lester noted that funding for her help would run out in a couple weeks. Susan has agreed to publicize the Spring Meeting, mainly the morning general interest workshops, as other items on the agenda are for members only. She recommended the arrangement of the agenda schedule to facilitate opening it to non-members who have an interest in trails and outdoor recreation. Lester noted the documentation of who's checking e-mails, as mentioned by Susan at the January meeting, and the high open rates.

To a question regarding publicity, Lester explained that mail chimp is free at the numbers the club uses; Vreeland Marketing maintains the service and club representatives don't have to worry about it.

Maps for Steve Pinkham: Steve Pinkham attended the last Spring Meeting with his trail maps. He has acquired a 1938 MATC trail map and wants to reproduce and sell it, giving a portion of the profits to the club. Some at this meeting felt that any publicity for the Trail would be good for the club. There are still questions regarding copyright law and who holds the copyright to that edition. Dave Field showed some older maps he has and noted that they are copyrighted by ATC, which published maps until MATC took over with Steve Clark, some time before 1979.

Doug Dolan, who has expertise on copyright law, noted that, in Dave's editions, some maps indicated copyrights and some didn't. He also explained that any copyrights are perpetuated to future updates of the publication. He agreed to do more research as to whether MATC owns the rights to the map Steve Pinkham has, and then bring a recommendation back to the Executive Committee. Claire Polfus offered to check with Brian King, ATC publisher, for his input.

Business Incentives: Lester asked to skip the Business Incentives agenda item. He said it's a much more complex issue than he had anticipated and it entails sponsorship, which is counter to LMP regulations.

Wind Power Committee Report: Tony Barrett reported on wind power issues. Several e-mails on the proposed Bingham site have gone out.

"Although MATC does not support the project, it has agreed to voice no opposition to the project as currently submitted. On behalf of the MATC Wind Power Committee, I move to rescind the opposition vote of 2013." Bob Cummings seconded the motion. The motion passed with fifteen in favor, none opposed and one abstention.

Tony noted that, while the legislative bill prepared by MATC was defeated by a vote in the House of Representatives, Senate President, Justin Alford, has submitted a bill (LD 1750) to revise wind power regulations and focus on visual impact. Tony said the bill seems to have been written by the wind industry.

The Wind Power Committee welcomes input from any other members. Lester added that the Wind Power Committee has recognized the need to ally with other groups, such as NRCM (the Natural Resources Counsel of Maine) or Maine Audubon, on wind power and several other common interests.

Spring Meeting: Lester reported on plans for the Spring Meeting, on April 20. Hawk Metheny has agreed to present, and Bill Plouffe and Pete McKinley have agreed to speak on behalf of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust.

Bob Cummings announced March 14 as the deadline for MAINEtainer articles, to be able to publish information in time for the meeting. Dave Field is investigating means to project the slide show into the hallway where people gather. Sherri Langlais has offered to fill in as Secretary, as Janice Clain has school obligations.

Overseer Reports: Dave Field reported as Overseer of Lands. Alison Scheiderer has arranged for a volunteer crew from the American Hiking Society to work on corridor boundary lines north of Route 4 during the week of September 14. She also hopes to have an Americorps crew to work on some of the more remote lines between Long Pond Stream and Bald Mt. Pond during the summer. The snowmobile group that cleared an illegal crossing of the corridor in Township D a few years ago has applied to the NPS Rivers and Trails program for funding to build an alternative route that could cross the A.T. somewhere in the Bureau of Parks & Lands' Four Ponds Management Unit. Dave will provide more information as that situation develops.

Tom Gorrill reported that the Baldpate District has one maintainer opening, and an applicant for it.

Dick Fecteau was not present, so there was no report from the Bigelow District.

Craig Dickstein reported that the Kennebec District has one vacancy and two applicants. Craig is sharing information with Ron Dobra to see if they can accommodate both of the interested parties.

The standard trail signs for the Arnold Trail, discussed at the last meeting, have been ordered and the interpretive sign is still under review. Craig has prepared information for Claire and Lester to take to NERPC at the end of March regarding the proposal for an Arnold Trail interpretive sign.

Craig added that he acted on the e-mail from Maine Game Warden Kevin Adams that requested information on contacts in his district, and has had no communication from them. He reported on encroachment issues in Caratunk; he has contacted the local game warden who may be able to act on it. When Craig explained that motion sensing game

cameras recorded corridor incursion, Lester reminded that state and federal law requires written permission to install and use such equipment for recording human movement.

Ron Dobra has three openings and two prospective maintainers in the White Cap District.

Rick Ste. Croix was not present, so there was no report from the Katahdin District.

Care Committee Report: Holly Sheehan reported on behalf of the CARE Committee Holly. All caretakers and ridge runners were hired as of the day before this meeting. Ian Fitzmorris will return to Horns Pond; Carol Wellman, who has considerable hiking experience and experience working in several national parks, will be at Gulf Hagas. Grace Glynn, a recent college graduate from Saco, will be at Piazza Rock.

Communications Committee Report: Doug Dolan reported on the recently reorganized Communications Committee, which met for the first time the week before this meeting. He said they had a good discussion, and realized that this is a bigger job than anticipated. They created a matrix of different types of communication and tools available to the club, including Facebook, mail chimp, and Twitter, the most available and usable. He feels that they are making progress. Lester warned about using more than one medium to contact individuals; people are less likely to appreciate or respond to a message if they receive it in multiple formats.

Chains Saw Training: Craig Dickstein announced that the chainsaw training for the spring session is fully subscribed and he has a waiting list. He asked that the club consider offering extra sessions, as several club members are due for renewal.

National Register of Historic Places: Claire distributed information about the National Register of Historic Places, which lists places worthy of historic preservation. Rita Hennessey has worked to include the Appalachian Trail on this list, an initiative that was presented to the MATC Executive Committee a couple of years ago. The governing board of the National Register has studied the proposal and agrees that the AT should be on the list. The report of the Register's evaluators, who walked sections of the Trail last year, will come out soon. Buildings on the National Register of Historic Places have strict regulations for any changes, which is not an issue with land, though changes would require a NEPA study and other review processes that are already in place. Listing on the Register provides more protections for the Trail and could potentially help limit wind incursion. If the AT is listed with the national program, it would be easier to seek protection by the state. There is even a possibility that an MOU could help fund trail maintenance, including the Trail Crew.

Claire explained that this is a different concept than national historic trails. The process to complete the review and be officially added to the list could take a year. Dave Field cautioned that club representatives will have to review whatever the Register writes.

NERPC Meeting: The New England Regional Partnership Committee meeting would take place on March 22 in Hanover, New Hampshire. Among other matters, they will discuss the Kennebec Ferry service contract. Lester noted that the price for that service,

which is paid by ATC, has gone up about 4% every year. The current contract is about \$30,000 for three years. Claire is investigating other options.

2017 ATC Festival: Lester sent out information about the 2017 ATC Festival. He explained that MATC has the opportunity to host the event; if the club doesn't want it, other groups further south but in New England will take it. Members at this meeting had questions about the event, which includes a general assembly, presentations, hikes, and excursions. While the event itself is for a limited period of time, many attendees take advantage to make it a week-long vacation, which can be a financial boon to the region. Steve Clark spearheaded the last two festivals hosted in Maine, and he could be a resource. Dave Field also has considerable experience with the event. Lester cautioned that it will take a lot of planning by a large committee, including Executive Committee members and other club members at large.

Dave Field placed a motion to accept responsibility for hosting the ATC Festival in 2017. Elsa Sanborn seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Request for use of club publications: Phil Pepin sent a request through Ray Ronan to use images of MATC merchandise on his web site. Many other companies sell MATC products and display images on their sites. Dave Field noted that any promotion of MATC publications it will help the club.

Bob Cummings placed a motion to approve Phil Pepin's request to display images of the MATC guidebook, one map panel and a small portion of the text as stated in his request. Tony Barrett seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Ray will respond to Phil and will ask to see the images he plans to use.

National Coalition for Recreational Trails: MATC last year submitted an application to the National Coalition of Recreational Trails for recognition of a project completed by a trail crew. Holly Sheehan prepared the submission, which described the Bigelow Firewarden's Trail. Lester suggested that the club prepare another application this year, and he suggested the stone staircase on the north slope of White Cap as this year's submission. Holly will prepare the submission, which is due by March 28.

Arnold Expedition Trail Interpretive Sign: Craig Dickstein spoke again of the Arnold Expedition Trail Interpretive Sign proposal and referred to the three options for design as described in the information he distributed. Craig is still investigating the costs and benefits of certain materials but is leaning towards the more rustic style. He said that the Arnold Expedition Historical Society offered to pay for the sign, but then set low limits for the cost. There are also questions about implementation. Craig welcomed input from others, and Bob Cummings suggested leaving final decisions up to the NERPC. Lester reminded that any submission to NERPC should come from the club president.

Bob Cummings placed a motion to allow the NERPC to determine the final format of the Arnold Expedition Trail interpretive sign design. Craig Dickstein seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Largay Search: Lester announced that the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association is forming a search and rescue team to look for Geraldine Largay the last week in May.

Mahoosuc Land Trust Request: Lester distributed a document prepared by the Mahoosuc Land Trust that would assign all liability for actions on the Grafton Loop Trail to MATC and would require the club to pay additional insurance, about \$100 a year, to cover members of their group. Tom Gorrill and others have questions and reservations about signing such a document. Tom said the trail doesn't get much use and takes a lot of MATC's resources in terms of volunteer time and material. Lester asked for further input, and recognized that this action may facilitate opening discussions of the Grafton Loop Trail and whether it's appropriate for MATC to administer it. That loop is included in the club's five year plan, but it takes away from other projects on the (white blaze) AT. No action was taken at this time, and the Executive Committee will continue to discuss the matter.

With business concluded, Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Craig Dickstein, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Janice Clain
Recording Secretary