

MATC Executive Committee Meeting
May 2, 2014
UMA

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice President, Mike Ewing; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Tony Barrett, Bob Cummings, Bruce Grant, Laura Flight, Sherri Langlais, Dan Simonds, Don Stack; District Overseer, Rob Dobra; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; ATC Resources Manager, Claire Polfus; Guidebook Editor, Ray Ronan; Maintainer, Richard Gower; Fundraising Counsel, Alicia Nichols; Trust for Public Lands Project Manager, JT Horn

Absent: Corresponding Secretary, Doug Dolan; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Craig Dickstein, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill, Rick Ste. Croix

President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. He introduced JT Horn, who is based in Montpelier, Vermont and who represents the Trust for Public Lands.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report for the March 7 meeting. As there were no corrections or additions, Don Stack placed a motion, seconded by Bruce Grant, to accept the report. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Janice thanked Sherri Langlais for taking notes and publishing minutes for the recent Spring Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's Report. At this time of the year there is not much activity. The club currently has total assets of \$701, 377, which includes several contributions to the Capital Campaign; those contributions are held in the Money Market Account. With no changes or additions, Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Don Stack, to approve the Treasurer's Report. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Spring Meeting Review: Lester asked for any comments or suggestions on the Spring Meeting. Ron Dobra observed that planners have tweaked the schedule well, to provide smooth transitions and maximum attendance at sessions. He noted a drop off in attendance after lunch and Lester commented that his late afternoon workshop had about half the attendance that the morning session had. Dennis Andrews observed that the Land Trust workshop in the afternoon was well attended. Sherri Langlais commented that the meeting was well scheduled, with a good variety of topics, and that the program ran smoothly. To a question from Laura Flight regarding Dave Field's slide show, Lester confirmed that presenting the slide show on a tabletop monitor in the hallway worked well.

Lester noted that there were seventy-five attendees at the meeting, only a few more than the previous year in spite of considerable publicity distributed by Susan Tompkins. He questioned if would more people would attend if the meeting were in a more central and more populated area, such as Augusta. Some at this meeting agreed. Laura pointed out it was a holiday weekend, and others noted that it fell on the first weekend of school vacation, both of which may have impacted attendance. Some here recommended a review of scheduling for the event.

Bruce Grant observed that attendance used to be better when the event was held at Bates College. To a suggestion that future events may be held in the Trail Center, Lester explained that, while the new facility may be an appropriate venue for committee meetings, it will not be big enough to host a large gathering.

Lester will research a date and location for the next Spring Meeting and will bring back a proposal.

Trust for Public Lands Update: JT Horn gave an update on High Peaks conservation measures and a presentation on a Bald Mountain Pond project under consideration by the Trust for Public Land.

Bruce Grant placed a motion for the MATC Executive Committee to support the conservation of Bald Mountain Pond by the Trust for Public Land. Bob Cummings seconded the motion. The MATC Executive Committee voted its approval.

ATC Update: Claire Polfus presented news from ATC.

1) ATC has conveyed support for the Trail Center proposal through a letter from Hawk Metheny, which included a pledge to the capital campaign from the New England staff. In addition, AT regional development, PR and marketing staff will be available to help on the campaign as needed.

2) Claire announced that ATC is reviewing its trails assessment program and will be taking a break for the year to evaluate its benefits and make assessment findings easier to use. Anyone who has input should contact Claire.

3) ATC has applied for a grant for a youth engagement plan, to foster youth leadership through trail work. They will work with Teens to Trails and are planning workshops if the grant is received. Anyone who wishes to be included should contact Claire.

4) In an update on plans to include the AT on the National Register of Historic Places, Claire announced that the first draft of the application has been sent. Dave Field, Hawk Metheny, and Claire all provided input and revisions. Inclusion in the National Register ensures flexibility for trail work.

5) The Department of the Interior, AmeriCorps and Vista volunteers offer a program with a goal to serve underserved areas, especially in relation to natural resources. This coalition works through a partner organization, such as ATC or MATC, to provide services as determined by the hosting community. As

more positions have opened up in this program, ATC put in applications for positions in Rangeley and Millinocket, and both Trail Towns are open to the opportunity. The program places many stipulations; the person would work as a representative for ATC under supervision of an ATC authority partner and the volunteer would need a place to live and a place to work. The actual work the volunteer would do is flexible, and determined by the needs of the community. ATC would train and Claire would monitor the people. The club will find out in July if ATC receives the grant, and Claire would interview and hire the person, who would start in September. The program is for three years, and each volunteer would make a two year commitment and each would design his / her own job based on a community need.

Lester commented that this is a complex proposal that needs a lot of thought, and suggested that the Community Relations Committee examine it and generate a proposal and contact the Executive Committee by phone.

Bruce Grant supports the proposal, as it's been his vision for getting the community and youth involved on the Trail. Dan Simonds agreed to work with Bruce and Claire to develop a proposal.

Club Coordinator Update: Holly Sheehan spoke on her work as Club Coordinator. She has answered an invitation to write a grant application to the Quimby Foundation. The Betterment Fund has granted the club \$30,000 over three years for operating and trail reconstruction support; this sum was more than expected or requested.

Holly has been helping MCC, which has suffered budget cuts, search for options to restore some of its funding for AT projects.

Sixty-six volunteer slots with the Trail Crew are filled and some potential volunteers are in waiting; numbers are getting close to the maximum capacity for transportation.

Holly filed an application to the Coalition for Recreational Trails for recognition for the White Cap project. She shared with the Executive Committee a letter of support written by Representative Chellie Pingree, and which is now part of the congressional record.

Holly has worked with Teens to Trails on a membership drive. She referred to a letter from that organization requesting a donation. In response to that request, Lester suggested an ad hoc committee, which Holly, Bruce, and Ray Ronan formed. That committee proposes donating club membership to each of several new outing clubs sponsored by Teens to Trails. MATC would then set them up with a maintainer to work on a particular section. Bruce supports the idea of training leaders for trail use and added that advocacy is as important as membership; potential voters will remember their trail experience in later years. Sherri added that reaching out to youth will create an incentive for outing clubs to become associated with the Trail.

Lester advised that the ad hoc committee meet again to devise a plan and then move forward.

Trail Center / Capital Campaign Update: Alicia Nichols spoke on progress towards the Trail Center project. Plans are proceeding well. The Executive Committee financial commitment has reached 95% and the Solicitation Committee expects to reach 100% soon. The club last year added a sophisticated database (Donor Perfect software) to facilitate keeping track of members and those who have shown interest in the club. There are now some 12,000 names in the club data base, including those from the ferry registers and register boxes. Elsa said that transferring the names from the old Excel spreadsheet was time consuming, but worthwhile; she had a lot of help from Dick Welsh. The Wealth Engine Data Base Screening will help identify donors best able to contribute, identify top potential donors, and develop a strategy to engage them; the vendor does all the research.

Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Sherri Langlais, to purchase the Wealth Engine Data Base Screening service. The Executive Committee voted to approve.

Lester also announced that he needs to reconvene the Building Committee soon; he will contact them.

Campsite Committee Update: Laura Flight reported on activities for the Campsite Committee. She, Rick Ste. Croix, Richard Gower, and Dana Humphrey assembled the next moldering privy, destined for Wadleigh Stream campsite. The committee still needs to set dates for the project, and is looking at two weekends in June. They need one weekend, June 21 – 22, to boat the kit across Nahmakanta Lake (by "MATC Navy") and one weekend, June 28 – 29, to build (by "MATC Army"). Laura reported that constructing this privy was much easier than the one built last year for Carl Newhall; they've made some corrections to the plan, and, with continued practice, they may even be able to eliminate the pre-assembly phase of production. The club received a \$2800 grant from LL Bean to fund the project.

The Campsite Committee has some other miscellaneous projects for the season, and, with approval of the Black Brook campsite by the NERPC, they will need to start plans for that project.

Wind Power Committee Update: Tony Barrett presented an update from the Wind Power Committee. It held a brainstorming meeting and determined that it will treat each situation case by case.

Tony gave a short history of LD1147, the bill crafted by MATC to amend the Wind Act to better reflect visual impact of wind power sites. Though the legislative committee voted against the bill, the measure was only three votes short of passing in the full House. Tony is encouraged to present an updated version of the original MATC bill. Tony and other MATC representative planned to attend the meeting of the AMC Executive Committee on May 8, at 6:30 at Brunswick Manufacturing, to see if the two groups can coordinate positions.

NERPC Meeting Update: Bruce Grant reported on the latest NERPC meeting, held March 22. All MATC proposals passed, including the proposal for a campsite at Black Brook and the interpretive sign for the Arnold Trail.

Overseer of Lands Report: Laura Flight reported for Overseer of Lands, Dave Field. Snowmobilers continue to make and use trails on White Cap. This has been an ongoing problem, but now people are posting pictures on social media. Users have cut trees on NPS land to build trails. MATC has filed an encroachment report through Dave Field and Claire Polfus. Todd Remaley has received the report and will make contact.

District Overseer Reports: Ron Dobra reported for the White Cap District. Lester and Bryan Wenzell planned a scouting hike to Wilson Falls on Thursday May 8, to check specifications for a potential trail there.

No other overseers were in attendance.

CARE Committee Report: Holly Sheehan reported for the CARE Committee. Ian Fitzmorris and Carol Wellman will begin work on May 16. Carol will spend the first week with Ian at Horns Pond to learn caretaker routine, before moving to Hurd Brook on May 24. Training for all caretakers and ridge runners will take place at Bigelow Lodge June 8 to 11. Caretakers and ridgerunners will receive CPR and first aid training with the Trail Crew.

Communications Committee Report: Doug Dolan was not present at this meeting, but Lester reported that the Communications Committee is making good progress.

Bob Cummings announced that the next MAINEtainer deadline is May 24. He will check to see if Chellie Pingree's letter can be published.

ATC Festival 2017 Update: Lester reminded the Executive Committee of plans for the ATC Festival in 2017. The event will need a chair and overseer for several committees to work on those plans. Bruce Grant has contacted a potential committee chair.

Tony Barrett announced that AMC has scheduled its fall gathering in Maine and that they will be looking for helpers when they meet on May 8.

With all business concluded, Bob Cummings placed a motion, seconded by Mike Ewing, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Clain
Recording Secretary