

Maine Appalachian Trail Club  
Executive Committee Meeting  
May 3, 2013  
University of Maine at Augusta

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Corresponding Secretary, Doug Dolan; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Tony Barrett, Bob Cummings, Bruce Grant, Laura Flight, Don Stack; District Overseers, Craig Dickstein, Ron Dobra, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan, Guidebook Editor, Ray Ronan; Fundraising Counsel, Alicia Nichols.

Absent: Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; Directors, Rebecca Clark, Dan Simonds; District Overseer, Rick Ste. Croix.

**Call to Order:** President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 7:00.

**Secretary's Report:** Lester called for approval of the Secretary's Report for the March 1 meeting. As the report had not been distributed in advance, attendees had not had time to read it. The item was tabled until the September meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's Report. As there is little activity in April, she did not distribute a printed report. She explained that the \$10,000 liability mentioned at the Spring Meeting was for a grant from Franklin County money for the Horn's Pond Caretaker; monies were granted last summer for this year's season. Elsa noted \$539,000 in net assets.

Elsa reported that she has been receiving annual dues since a renewal notice was sent. To a question from Ron Dobra regarding membership, she explained that the number of members is flexible, but the renewal notice was sent to about 800. She said she would check on a message regarding a renewal that one member was unable to make on-line.

Elsa also mentioned a legacy gift that will come before the Executive Committee at a later date. As legal actions are still pending, it is not appropriate to discuss the gift at this time, and will be brought back in the future.

Ron Dobra placed a motion, seconded by Craig Dickstein, to accept the Treasurer's Report. The Executive Committee approved the motion.

**Friends of the AT in Maine:** Alicia Nichols spoke on the Friends of the AT in Maine. The group is planning for its next public presentation by Aislinn Sarnacki, who will talk on finding day hikes on the AT in Maine. Ron Dobra will be on hand to answer specific questions on the Trail. The event will take place on May 22 at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center of the new Brewer

Community School. Alicia has been preparing fliers and press releases. Thanks to a family connection between Rising Tide PR's Susan Tompkins and Bangor Daily The Bangor Daily News will design ads, run publicity and help promote the event. She will help with a mailing to Maine members through mailchimp. The event has already been posted on the MATC Facebook page. Alicia is also enlisting several MATC members to help as ushers and greeters.

The Friends are working on programs for July, August, September and October, some of which are set and others that are still in the planning stages. The tentative plan for a July event centers on the Molyneaux family, father and eight-year-old son who thru hiked the AT. The date is not yet confirmed. In August, Craig Dickstein and a panel of members who work directly on the Trail will share their experiences. Alicia is hoping to locate this presentation in Skowhegan at the high school. The September program will feature Dave Field speaking on the history of the Trail. It will take place on September 24 at the Buchanan House, at the University of Maine. In October, Carey Kish will again present his trail photos to the public. Auburn Mayor Jonathan Labonte wants to link this one with the Androscoggin Land Trust, and has suggested the Franco-American Center as a location.

Alicia stressed that these are not fund raising events; they are intended to promote the club, its mission and its work. She explained that the process has been to secure the speaker first, then find the venue. The Friends group has also worked to provide variety, both in terms of presenters and in location.

Alicia announced a Trail Center workshop at a special Executive Committee meeting on June 14 at UMA. The purpose of that session will be to discuss plans and how to move forward.

**Review of the Spring Meeting:** In a review of the Spring Meeting, Ron Dobra passed on a comment from one of his maintainers who attended and who said he liked this one better than those in the past. Bruce Grant commented that the format gave time for networking that hasn't been part of the program in the past. He suggested that a future workshop should highlight what's available for opportunities to get involved in the club.

Tony Barrett observed that scheduling district meetings in the middle of the day gave overseers and maintainers quality time. He asked if people not affiliated with a particular district were invited to attend a meeting; some Overseers said that did happen. Tony also recommended a closure before heading off to the last workshop session.

Doug Dolan said he likes the Overseer slide shows and suggested devising a way to present them, to target new members. Laura Flight suggested that the maintainer slide show be a separate workshop session, with an opportunity for narration.

To a question regarding how to get more new members there, Craig Dickstein noted that it's billed as a club meeting, so may give people the idea

that it's a closed group. Tom Gorrill suggested advertising a keynote speaker, as at Friends' events.

Lester said he will take these ideas to a committee which will examine and plan the next Spring Meeting, similar to the procedure that resulted this year from suggestions made at the January meeting. He added that he has had some positive comments on the meeting format, but noted that there was no spare time in the schedule in case anything unexpected happened. He showed the group two copies of Roberts Rules, in case another unexpected discussion regarding parliamentary procedure should arise. In reading Roberts Rules, he learned that nominations from the floor are standard procedure and that an executive session has to be voted by the group, has to specify who is included and has no notes and no guests.

**Other Announcements:** Bruce Grant presented an update on a meeting on the Nahmakanta Preserve. He said there was nothing radically new, except that a Department Of Transportation representative promoted a mountain bike trail from Nahmakanta to Kokadjo. This initiative shouldn't impact the AT very much as it's on roads that already have mountain bike traffic. It would cross the AT at Abol Bridge.

Ray Ronan announced the next Teens to Trails event on May 4 at Cony High School. He has the club display and will return it to Lester and Elsa for the Brewer event.

Lester asked if anyone is going to Cullowhee to the Biennial Conference, July 19-26. Bruce Grant and Don Stack have made plans. Lester will reserve a display table for them.

**Maine AT Staff Position in Maine:** Lester announced that Hawk Metheny, Matt Stevens and Alison Scheiderer are conducting second interviews for the Maine staff position, interviewing four candidates. They hope to introduce the new person to the Trail the first week of June. They will be using Farmington as a base.

**MAINEtainer:** Bob Cummings announced that he hopes to publish the next MAINEtainer by early June. He first set May 20 as a deadline for submissions, but agreed to wait a couple days to include photos from the May 22 event in Brewer and from the CARE training.

Dennis Andrews expressed praise for the MAINEtainer, and commented in particular on the good focus on the trail concerns.

**Wind Power Committee Report:** Tony Barrett spoke on recent meetings regarding Wind Power. AMC's Ken Kimball met with First Wind, which expressed concern for the expense of protecting all of Bald Mountain Pond, as outlined in the mitigation proposal presented by outdoor interests. Questions arose on the quick meeting notice for the Executive Session discussions and

decisions on the day of the Spring Meeting. Some of the stipulations included in the mitigation package, such as blade color and radar activated lights, also proved to be subject to outside regulation, and therefore difficult for First Wind commit to include in an agreement.

Dick Fecteau explained that he sent a lot of e-mails after the April 20 discussion because he felt this was a game changing discussion and he would have preferred advance notice, information and time to examine and think before being asked to make a major decision on a major movement

Tony reported that First Wind said it has submitted its application to DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) for the Bingham project, although details are unclear. It is also not clear whether that submission has been accepted. Craig Dickstein said the town of Bingham is upset because the project has the name Bingham when they won't get anything from it.

Tony also spoke on the Wind Legislation MATC has initiated. A public hearing was held on April 8 and a work session on April 25. The bill was tabled because several committees are considering wind bills, and the legislature wants to examine bills and coordinate and devise a matrix of all the bills to better understand the overlap. Legislative officials have suggested making another committee to study all these bills.

Tony also spoke on LD 385, initiated by AMC and other groups, and which the MATC Executive Committee voted to support. It will require all wind power developers to consider scenic impact. A hearing was held in March and there has been no work session to date.

**Club Coordinator Update:** Holly Sheehan reported on her work for the club, as presented in the handout she distributed. She concluded fund raising in March, which is very early. She has been focused on planning for CARE training and filling volunteer slots on the Trail Crew. She said volunteers are nicely spaced on the schedule; she is aware that some will drop out, and the Crew Coordinator will handle replacements.

Lester said recruiting has been better in last two years than ever before.

### **Overseer Reports:**

There was no report from the Overseer of Lands who was not present.

Tom Gorrill reported on the Baldpate District. He has had a lot of volunteers, has planned a work trip with Dirigo HS, and a Scout troop will help with a project. Several maintainers have indicated that they are starting to go out on the Trail now. He said he has one access issue because of a landowner conflict, and he will confer with others as to how to handle it.

Craig Dickstein reported that the Kennebec District still has one opening, in Horseshoe Canyon, and will have one other when two of his maintainers make the official change to a section in another district. He will check out a couple projects with Peter Roderick. He said the Pleasant Pond relocation is ready to go,

and Lester explained that the club is still waiting for a Norcross grant to fund a floating bridge.

Ron Dobra, White Cap District Overseer, reported some trail swaps within the district. He has a new maintainer for the Gulf Hagas Rim Trail, so the Pleasant River Road is open.

Ron showed the group a sign that the Monson General Store has created and that highlights the AT. He said the new storeowners are making plans to reach out to hikers, and will also provide transport. Shaw's (hiker lodging) is for sale, but will open, though they may have staffing issues.

Ron talked with representatives from AMC, who put him in contact with the Forest Service, which is looking for training opportunities for cargo transport with their helicopters. They are discussing transport of privy materials via cargo helicopter. The biggest obstacle is the space needed for a helicopter landing, which needs a 250 foot square opening.

Ron has approval for two new privies in his district; he's waiting for the new privy design. The CAD drawing that Laura distributed is out of date; they should get new drawings in May, and will need to revise the plan before they start moving and constructing.

Doug Dolan reported that Colby College has two crews that want to do work as part of their Freshmen Orientation. They are looking for a project for Labor Day weekend. In recent years they have been working with Baxter State Park on the Hunt Trail, and that project has ended.

**Care Committee Report:** Holly Sheehan reported for the CARE Committee. The season starts May 18 with pack ins to Piazza Rock and Horns Pond. The Gulf Hagas Ridge Runner will again start the season at Hurd Brook, to interact with southbounders. The Nature Conservancy has been very generous in letting the Ridge Runner use one of its camps for the first few weeks of the season. That position will pack into Gulf Hagas on June 9.

Caretaker / Ridge Runner training will take place at Bigelow Lodge May 19 to 22.

**Maine Trail Crew Report:** Ron Dobra reported on the Maine Trail Crew. All staff positions were filled, including two Crew Leaders, two Assistant Crew Leaders, SCA leadership interns, and the Crew Coordinator, a returnee from last season. Crew Camp set-up takes place on May 4, and continues on May 11 with the new staff.

**Committee Structure:** Lester reported no changes to the committee structure since the last meeting. Dan Simonds wanted to talk about a revised charge for the Communication Committee, but has not been available to work on that. Bruce and Lester will talk about a charge for Community Outreach Committee.

Bruce Grant spoke on the meeting in Farmington for Community Outreach. He said it was well attended, with several representatives from the

community, including a couple of teachers from the TTEC (Trail to Every Classroom) program. Paul Reynaud, from the Appalachian Trail Lodge, will serve as Millinocket Trail Ambassador.

**Membership / dues proposal:** Ron Dobra spoke on his proposal to create a Maintainer class of club membership. He feels that the club should do more to acknowledge people who put in physical work. He suggests the Executive Committee consider reducing dues for workers by \$5 for maintainers and corridor monitors. Lester noted that such a move would need a constitutional amendment and would have to be voted at the Spring Meeting.

Ron said he just wants to show recognition for service given. Elsa Sanborn pointed out that maintainers who attend the February meeting get a lot of "freebies" in the form of door prizes and recognition items.

Lester suggested that Ron research what other groups do to recognize service, and levels of service, and then return with a proposal.

**Campsite Committee Report:** Laura Flight spoke on privies. She sent documents via e-mail and wants feedback for the Campsite Committee. She suggested that MATC accept the design being put in autoCAD for any replacement privies and she asked for Executive Committee support because the new structures will cost more for materials and construction.

Elsa Sanborn placed the following motion: "that the Executive Committee support the Campsite Committee recommendation to install a moldering, open-air crib style, accessible privy when the privy currently at the location is no longer adequate in terms of its capacity and / or structure. It is recognized that local site conditions may prevent necessary customization for this type of privy. Exceptions also include if the situation necessitates immediate response, and materials and workforce are not available to address the issue in a timely fashion." Tom Gorrill seconded the motion.

Laura explained that the biggest concern on campsite reports is the condition of the privy. She said the goal of the Campsite Committee is to do two or three replacements per season, and noted that Carl Newhall and Logan Brook are slated for replacement this year, along with installing a privy at the Kennebec crossing, if it passes the NEPA process. The Committee is aware that these changes will involve more maintenance annually, but less maintenance when they need to be moved.

The Executive Committee approved the motion by voice vote.

Dennis Andrews expressed his concern that this discussion was brought to the Annual Meeting for debate; it should have been handled through the Executive Committee. He felt that people "hijacked" the discussion because they didn't have a complete understanding of the situation. Lester suggested a series of informative articles in the MAINetainer to apprise non Executive Committee members of the background and legal parameters of the issue.

With all discussions ended, Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Bob Cummings, to adjourn. The Executive Committee approved the motion. The meeting ended at 9:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted.  
Janice Clain  
Recording Secretary