

Maine Appalachian Trail Club
Executive Committee Meeting
January 10, 2015
Jewett Hall, 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, Laura Flight, Bruce Grant, Sherri Langlais, Dan Simonds, Don Stack; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Craig Dickstein, Ron Dobra, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill, Rick Ste. Croix; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; Guidebook Committee Chair, Ray Ronan; Development Committee Chair, Tim Fortune; Finance Committee Chair, Tom Lewis; ATC Regional Director, Hawk Metheny; ATC Resources Director, Claire Polfus; ATC Stewardship Council Member, Tom Mullin; Capital Campaign Director, Alicia Nichols; Marketing and Public Relations Director, Susan Tompkins; Maintainers, Stan and Michelle Moody; Sign Maker, Louis Chartier; Guests, Pete Antos Ketchum, Green Mountain Club, Ryan Linn, Nancy Grant.

Absent:

Delayed by a technical issue, President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 9:14 am. He explained that the format of the daylong winter meeting calls for a half day of informational presentations and a half day of club business. With several guests in attendance, he called for introductions.

Composting Toilets: Pete Antos-Ketchum spoke to the group regarding the latest Backcountry Sanitation Manual, developed by the Green Mountain Club with input from ATC. The manual, originally compiled in the 90's and published in 2001, has undergone revisions, and was just released in 2014. It is available online as a downloadable pdf file. It represents more than forty years of experience with composting toilets and includes tips on handling human waste and tools for working with it.

Recognizing the need to move beyond pit toilets traditionally used in the past, the Green Mountain Club began experimenting with moldering privies in the 90's and compiled its Back Country Sanitation Manual based on its experiences. The club reviewed and revised the manual ten years later based on increased hiker numbers and changes in accessibility guidelines and regulations. The manual includes a volunteer's survival tool kit and has a link to privy design and maintenance information. MATC has adapted GMC's accessible privy design, adopted by the National Forest Service region 9. APPA has chosen to defer its own privy guidelines to those of the USFS (forest service) model, which developed its privy guidelines in conjunction with ATC.

GMC recognized a need to understand use patterns when creating privy designs, to take into account location, elevation, traffic and use patterns, and the amount of time necessary for waste to decompose. One of Pete's tips on decomposition was to

introduce red worms and other organisms to help with composting / decomposing waste.

Pete explained several of the features of an adequate accessible privy. It should include a 5 x 5 transfer platform and a ramp with a grade of 5-8% if no at grade entrance is feasible. It should include a T-turnaround space, stainless steel grab bars, and an accessible riser, not a bench seat. Hawk Metheny reminded that ATC may have funding for hardware available through its Grants to Clubs.

Pete recommended selecting the best site for the toilet, as, unlike formerly used pit toilets, it will be permanent. The wide building design, with a two crib system, allows for changing the drop site with time. The crib should include several points to access the pile with tools, with room to spread out the cone to maximize decomposition. A proper bulking agent is important, and GMC recommends shavings from wood planings, as they have the proper texture and moisture content. The maintainer should put a sign to explain the process, and can then regulate the mixture to maximize coverage and proportions. He said that covering the pile with shavings helps reduce pests, such as insects and mice, as does the screening around the crib. He recommended educating maintainers on how to maintain a good balance of moisture. He also said that ATC doesn't encourage urination in privy, which many people at this meeting had never heard. Laura Flight observed that we'll need to educate our maintainers on procedures and let any new maintainer know of changes. Pete added that a moldering privy is low maintenance, but is not maintenance free; they're higher on routine maintenance than what we've had, but require less effort than having to move privies every few years. When asked about adding Ridex, Pete explained that GMC does not advise adding any chemical products.

On the topic of tools, Pete recommended a long handled manure fork and personal protective equipment. When asked about where to keep these tools to avoid contamination, Hawk recommended hanging them on the back of the privy, and possibly adding a biohazard sign. Some clubs are developing small sheds to house tools and the bulking agents. Pete emphasized basic common sense measures and planning ahead.

On the topic of constructing privies, Pete cautioned that if we make any significant changes in design or maintenance of existing privies, we have to make them accessible. He did acknowledge that clubs are making an effort to be compliant, but the guidelines are in a continual state of revision. Hawk added that it's not just the physical design, it's the psychological aspect; we have to make the privy attractive so hikers will use it. While hikers consider improvements for their comfort, it's really about preserving the land. Both Hawk and Pete commended MATC for its commitment to replacing pit privies with moldering accessible privies; that's a powerful statement to other clubs along the trail; others have made the decision and are also implementing moldering privies, but have not moved to accessible designs. The Green Mountain Club in the forefront, followed by MATC and AMC.

Bruce Grant suggested that we consider an interior finish that will cut down on contamination of surfaces where pathogens, such as norovirus, can take hold. Dave Field added that we need to educate hikers to practice effective hygiene.

Pete asked that any feedback on the Backcountry Sanitation Manual be submitted to sanitation@appalachiantrail.org.

Phone Apps for the Appalachian Trail: Ryan Linn, whose trail name is Guthook, spoke to the group regarding phone apps that he and a partner have developed for long distance hikers. He began this project after his hike on the Pacific Crest Trail, where detailed print guides are less prevalent than on the AT, and after noticing that more long distance hikers are relying on smart phones. He recommended that MATC take steps to accommodate hikers who rely on phone apps. He began to develop his own AT app, linked to GPS and different types of maps, in 2013. Ryan's apps are available at Google and Android stores under the Guthook name.

The trail is broken up by sections along the length of the AT. He demonstrated how hikers could check for information and photos at various waypoints on a map, review entries and comment in a virtual register. Ryan is working to update photos using his own photos and not those solicited from others. He does some editing of the entries others put in that are not helpful. The apps don't need a cell signal to be used. He cautions that hikers need a real map and should not rely entirely on phone apps, but did acknowledge changes in hiker attitudes in recent years. Many cell phone companies are pushing hikers to use their service, and young people are attracted to the technology, but reliance on cell phones does open up the possibility of misuse by younger hikers. Ron Dobra commented that he used the technology for hiking the ADT.

Hawk asked about including trail management information and perhaps a link via maintainer club logo. Claire Polfus suggested that information about land management rules would be helpful. Ryan is considering both options, but has not yet implemented them. He is developing a procedure and guidelines for what to include in his information. He has been doing day to day hiker information and not overall regulations / restrictions; he is working on delisting unofficial but popular campsites.

The Biennial Committee: Tony Barrett and Sherri Langlais, co-chairs of the biennial steering committee, gave an update on progress in planning the 2017 ATC Biennial Conference. The biennial gathering is an event for ATC membership hosted by local organization. Hawk Metheny explained that people attend the biennial for different reasons, some for the hikes and excursions, some for workshops, and some for networking within the hiking community.

Maine served as host of the biennial for the first time 1939 at Daicey Pond. It has hosted other biennial gatherings in 1979, in Carrabassett Valley and in 1997, at Sunday River. The 2003 biennial was set in Waterville Valley. While many biennial conferences have taken place at ski resorts, which offer ample facilities and access to mountain trails, more recent events have centered on college campuses. Typical attendance at a biennial gathering is about 1500. The 1997 Sunday River had highest attendance to that point.

A 2007 ATC biennial task force examined the process for planning and carrying out a biennial event and formulated several recommendations. As a result of that

examination, ATC takes more responsibility for registration and finances, to protect local organizers; in return, they take more of the "profit."

The next biennial conference is in Winchester, Virginia, July 17 - 24, 2015. Most of the members of the MATC Biennial steering committee plan to attend, to better understand the scope of the event and to help the planners there; the co-chairs of the Winchester gathering have been working with the MATC steering committee.

Tony and Sherri explained the next steps in their time line:

site selection in January 2015

planning sub committees in March 2015

select the theme and devise a logo in March 2015

create and distribute promotional materials in April 2015

The steering committee will start planning in earnest for Maine after the Winchester biennial. They hope to begin their work the week of August 4.

In December, the biennial steering committee visited three sites which are available and which would suite the needs of the event, Colby College, Sugarloaf, and the University of Maine at Farmington. All are available and all have distinct advantages and disadvantages. The committee created a matrix listing pros and cons of each site, and is still considering options.

The steering committee has compiled a long list of potential themes for the event, and solicited input from the attendees at this meeting. They also have a long list of work areas, and are looking for more people to join the steering committee, which will then form sub committees to help with planning. Dick Welsh, who has been working on a club membership data base, has been compiling a list of potential volunteers. Stan Moody reminded that there is now a category on the club work trip report for time spent on the biennial gathering.

At the last two biennial events in Maine, AMC has helped with planning and leading hikes and excursions.

Wind Power and other projects impacting the Appalachian Trail: Tony Barrett and Claire Polfus presented an update on energy infrastructure and the impact of wind power and other energy transmission installations on the AT. Current projects in varying stages of planning include:

North Twin, Roxbury, visible from East Baldpate looking to Record Hill

Iberdrola's West Range Wind Project, on Fletcher Mountain, just across from Bingham and within 8 miles of the AT, with potential infringement on the view shed from East Carry Pond and visible from the Bigelows; they've set up an office in Bingham, but haven't submitted an application for permits

Highlands, which has been quiet but that developers assure isn't dead

MATC is concerned for the cumulative impact of five prospective projects, all within eight miles of the AT, and all visible from viewpoints along the Trail. Tony presented a graphic that shows the change in the heights and numbers of turbines since the beginning of the visual impact along the trail. Tony cautioned that MATC has devoted a lot of money and manpower to protect the Trail from improper wind power sitings, and we need to change the rules so we aren't fighting individual projects. The

first wind power legislative initiative made by MATC (LD 1147), addressed cumulative impact. The bill failed by only a few votes in the House, although it was soundly defeated in the Senate. The MATC Wind Committee agreed that the club needs to review and revise its legislative effort to protect scenic resources. To that end, Tom Windsor, on behalf of MATC and AMC, has submitted a new LD bill. They are seeking other co-sponsors.

Claire Polfus presented information on the background of wind power development. Southern New England, which is pushing for more power, wants transmission lines bringing in energy and has several proposals in the works, including a new proposal for a transmission line from Northern Quebec that will cross the AT west of the Bigelows. That power line is not accessible to local companies, and is solely to transmit power to southern New England. Some parts of the transmission line follow current power lines, which have conservation easements in place, to Wyman Dam, but the opening is significantly wider and with higher towers. The new transmission line will need new permissions, with a full environmental impact study, but not a visual impact study. Claire reminded that market forces rule in these cases.

The business meeting convened at 1:00 pm.

Secretary's Report: Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report for the meeting of November 7. She signaled one minor correction; in the discussion of the campsite at Nahmakanta Lake, the permitting authority is the Bureau of Parks and Lands. With this correction made, Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Craig Dickstein, to accept the Secretary's Report. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's Report. She noted a total of assets and cash of \$642,196.76, which includes some capital campaign funds. Several members have commented that the notes accompanying the report are very helpful. Ron Dobra asked if moving to a rolling membership has made a difference, and Elsa explained that it doesn't really change club finances, but is more realistic and reasonable for members. With no further questions, Bruce Grant placed a motion, seconded by Dave Field, to accept the Treasurer's Report. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Elsa added an explanation of the 2014 annual appeal saying it is right on target and that she has received several donations in recent weeks.

Longley Property: Several club members have visited the Longley property in The Forks. The club's insurance agent has also examined the property. Craig Dickstein has met with a realtor. As the estimates of the value of the property by the realtor and insurance company are widely different, that item doesn't appear in the treasurer's financial statements because we can't really pinpoint value. Craig observed that taxes for the property were based on a faulty assessment, which listed more acreage than the parcel actually includes. He thinks they'll decrease by 1/2 to 3/4. He also thinks the insurance company is recommending more insurance than we need. Lester said these

discrepancies will be discussed at the next meeting of the committee that is investigating options for the property.

Tony Barrett mentioned that MATLT has offered to help place at least half the property under conservation easement.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Doug Dolan reported as Corresponding Secretary that there has been little e-mail since the last meeting.

Preliminary MATC Budget for 2015: Tom Lewis presented the preliminary budget, which indicates expenditures at \$221,850. He noted 55% funding from public sources, 45% from private sources and a good cushion in expected income and sources of funding. The Finance Committee is still reviewing requests, and will present its final draft for approval by the Executive Committee at its March Executive meeting. Tom noted an amount in the administration category budgeted for a base line full financial accounting audit, an indication of a higher threshold of finances. He explained that this audit will be needed as we move into the capital campaign and the club's financial standing undergoes significant changes. Outside auditors will also review our procedures, operations, and structure for reporting. The audit will go to the Finance Committee, which may need to meet more frequently.

As further explanation of entries in the budget, Tom noted that the budget lists some expenses for the Longley property, \$3000 for soft ware, mostly for the capital campaign, figures for legal fees and legislative representation for wind power, and costs for trails and structures resulting from plans to build a lean-to at Nahmakanta Stream and two new accessible privies, including equipment needed for building on site.

Tom commended Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan, for her work soliciting adequate funding for CARE and the Trail Crew.

The Finance Committee will meet again on February 2 to revise budget figures, including capital campaign expenses. The committee welcomes input from other club members.

Ron Dobra would like to see more in the structures line for bog bridging projects and miscellaneous materials, and Tom recommended that he send requests to Lester. Lester, in turn, advised that any additional requests include details regarding costs and justifications. Dan Simonds noted that the CARE Committee is reviewing its structure, which may or may not impact the budget, and he will let Tom know as soon as possible if there are changes.

Biennial Committee Business: Tony Barrett, co chair of the Biennial Conference Steering Committee, referred to correspondence regarding co-hosting the event with AMC. He recognized good relations with AMC and its representatives on the steering committee, and feels that asking AMC Maine to co-host will "up the anti" for them. The Winchester biennial has a co-host this year. Lester cautioned that he wants to be sure that MATC membership be informed and engaged as much as possible and expressed concern that we haven't talked about this much with our own membership. Tony thinks the biennial steering committee has wide MATC representation, and doesn't

think AMC Boston would need to be involved, beyond putting a signature on an MOU, which would be done after the Winchester event. To bring the discussion forward, Tony Barrett placed a motion that MATC invite the AMC Maine chapter to co-host the 2017 ATC Biennial. Bruce Grant seconded the motion.

Attendees at this meeting expressed concern that MATC has spent several years and considerable funds trying to demonstrate that MATC is not AMC, especially in preparation for a capital campaign. The concern that we can't find enough volunteers is unfounded, as we have plenty of volunteers for our own work.

Michelle Moody noted that AMC has very specific guidelines for its hike leaders, and may not want to have leaders who are not in their organization. Dave Field countered that AMC didn't restrict hike leadership to AMC at the 1997 event, while Hawk explained that their risk management protocols have changed since then and AMC hiking guides' restrictions have increased a lot since 1997. Bob Cummings noted that AMC has more volunteers than we do, and that we need people, especially to lead the hikes; ATC approves of having co-hosts, as it's a very large event, and inviting AMC to co-host emphasizes cooperation rather than opposition.

Tony feels that having both organizations working on a Maine AT biennial is a good move and that we'll get broader participation if both organizations are involved. Doug Dolan observed that having both logos on the same letterhead may help others to see that there are two distinct organizations.

Bruce Grant added that MATC will need many volunteers for the capital campaign and a high degree of participation. With so many initiatives in place, we're stretching our volunteer base thin. He thinks it makes sense to have AMC as an equal partner, especially with time needed to organize hikes and excursion. AMC involvement may even bring in some new members.

Tom Gorrill placed a motion to call the question. Mike Ewing seconded that motion, and the Executive Committee approved.

To the original motion to invite AMC to co-host the 2015 ATC Biennial Conference, the Executive committee voted fourteen in favor and three opposed. The motion carried.

News from ATC: Referring to a document she distributed before the meeting, Claire Polfus presented an ATC update. ATC staff has updated its strategic plan and are currently planning how to implement that plan. They are adding a part time administrative assistant, based either in Hartford or Kellogg, two seasonal employees to work on boundaries, a natural resources technician and a seasonal position for the Kellogg Conservation Center. Four new trail-wide positions have been added to expand and organize other efforts, including directors for Landscape Conservation, Policy and Legal, Education and Outreach. Hawk Metheny explained that funding for these positions comes from a portion of an ATC endowment and an aggressive fund raising campaign. He asked that Executive Committee members send information to anyone who might be a good candidate for any of these positions.

Regarding the ATC capital plan, Claire advised that MATC structure its projects in a way that makes them more feasible and likely to secure funding.

Claire announced a Maine Youth Trail Stewardship Summit March 6 - 8, at Bryant Pond 4H Camp. Workshops for the Trail to Every Classroom program are planned for May 1 - 2, focusing on teachers from urban areas, mostly in southern New England. Both summits are free to participants except for travel to the site.

Tom Sobol has been working as an AT Community Vista volunteer in Millinocket, and Amanda Gardner will start in Rangeley in February.

Jeff Marion is doing a full impact study of the Trail, including tread, campsite and visitor impacts, starting in New England. He'll make recommendations for tread and relocation projects. His examination satisfies the needs of the National Park Service, which is funding the study.

Claire addressed a letter from Baxter State Park officials in which they outlined their concerns about hiker behavior. ATC has responded to that communication. Problems that have been noted along the length of the trail may be amplified in Baxter Park because of their regulations and the end of the trail atmosphere. When asked for details of ATC's response, Hawk cautioned that publicizing information on the internet caused problems with the original communication. Lester commented that the problem has been in existence for a long time, but the numbers of long distance hikers have increased exponentially with publicity for hiking the Trail. Bruce Grant suggested that it may be in part an issue of group management as a result of large contingents forming in the Hundred Mile Wilderness. Craig Dickstein commented that limiting The Birches to only twelve people adds to the problem.

ATC is contracting with AMC to develop a Group Management Manual and is seeking input from clubs along the Trail.

Communications Committee: Doug Dolan reported for the Communications Committee, which held a conference call in the fall, and is working on a club brochure. The panel is also developing a social media policy, with input provided by AMC.

Nomination Committee Report: Tony Barrett reported for the Nominations Committee, comprised of himself, Dave Field and Bill Millis. He reported no changes in positions.

Tony, on behalf of the Nominations Committee, placed a motion to accept the slate of Executive Committee positions as presented. Sherri Langlais seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted to accept the slate.

Craig Dickstein reminded that parliamentary procedure requires opening the nominations to the full membership at the annual meeting.

Public Relations Review: Susan Tompkins reported on PR. 2014 saw a lot of activity, both in traditional media markets and on social media. Traditional media included an article in the Maine Sunday telegram on the year anniversary of the Geraldine Largay search and a nightly news item on the Maine Trail Crew and featuring an interview with Ron Dobra. Mail Chimp e-mail publicity has included "Season of Giving. Thanks," a focus on trail maintainers and funders and calls to renew membership and to donate to the club. Rising Tide has created a marketing campaign

on social media, with links to print media and a winter photo contest that saw thousands of views and a healthy share rate for Facebook posts. It's about good will and a sense of community and keeping the communication open.

Plans for 2015 include features on the spring meeting at Bates College, on the guidebook donation to Teens to Trails, on the new MATC brochure, the current project of the Communications Committee, and an article on the accessible privy project in the spring edition of AT Journeys. Susan asked that Executive Committee members pass along any other publicity suggestions.

CARE Committee: Dan Simonds reported as the newly appointed chair of the CARE Committee. He distributed a written report and added that the committee is reviewing its procedures in anticipation of the next season.

Maine Trail Center Capital Campaign: Alicia Nichols, reporting on the Maine Trail Center, noted that the club made significant progress in last two months. The building committee finalized a budget that was approved by the Executive Committee in November; 100% of the Executive Committee has contributed or pledged significant financial support and ATC staff has also made a pledge; several potential donors have been identified; updated renderings of the Maine Trail Crew Center are currently being prepared; and invitations will soon be extended to potential volunteers to form a campaign committee.

Maintainer and Corridor Monitor Gathering: The annual Maintainer and Corridor Monitor Gathering will take place on February 21 at the Viles Arboretum, in Augusta. The gathering will feature a presentation of best practices, door prizes and a pot luck lunch. There will be time in the afternoon to use the snowshoe trails on the property. Lester asked for suggestions for any other items to be included. Both the biennial committee and CARE committee plan to dovetail with this event to meet and work on their own projects.

Club Coordinator Update: Club Coordinator Holly Sheehan distributed her update prior to the meeting. Her work for the club included several grant applications submitted to secure funding for both the Maine Trail Crew and the CARE program and participation in meetings of the CARE and Community and Education Outreach committees.

Overseer of Lands Report: Dave Field reported as Overseer of Lands. He has only 10 unassigned corridor monitor sections out of seventy. He and other volunteers completed an inventory of boats stored on water in corridor and found 103 boats illegally stored. He has talked to APPA about a permitting system, similar to the one used by the state.

Dave placed a motion to recommend appointing Dick Welsh as Assistant Overseer of Lands. Dick currently lives out of state, but spends summers here with

relatives, and is planning to move to Maine permanently in a couple years. Don Stack seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted to approve the appointment.

District Overseer Reports: Tom Gorrill reported for the Baldpate District. He has two maintainer openings. He is making an appointment with Grafton Loop landowners to work on a couple of issues.

Craig Dickstein, reporting for the Kennebec District, has one opening; Dana Thurston is giving up his section, but is still working on signs. Carey Kish will thru hike this season, and his partner will handle maintainer duties, but will need help. Craig reported significant wind and snow damage from the early November storm, and warned that spring maintenance may be very difficult.

Craig also announced the spring chainsaw training will take place on April 18 and 19. He will set the venue later.

Ron Dobra has four openings in the White Cap District, some open for more than a year. He is concerned that volunteer hours seem to be steadily decreasing.

Rick Ste. Croix reported a good season in the Katahdin District. He has openings for two maintainers, at Daicey Pond and Nahmakanta Stream. His district saw construction of the new moldering handicapped accessible privy at Wadleigh Stream.

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will take place at Bates College on April 11 in the Schaeffer Theater on the Bates College campus. Lester will contact people for help with setting up the program. Ron Dobra and Susan Tompkins volunteered to help.

Community Outreach Committee: The Community Outreach Committee, which has a mission to support Trail Town and youth groups, has had a very active this fall. They have solicited information from Tom Gorrill, who has worked with teen groups, have compiled information on work projects that youth could do, and have taken steps to strengthen relations with high schools. They have gathered thirty guidebooks for contributions to schools, with PR for the donation through Susan Tompkins. The guidebooks will be housed in the school library and assigned to outing clubs in the schools.

Bruce Grant announced that the committee is seeking people who can help link to outing clubs at high schools and is looking for teachers to join the Trail to Every Classroom program.

MAINEtainer: Bob Cummings set the deadline for the next MAINEtainer for January 20, so he can compile an issue before the end of the month. In accordance with club by-laws, he will need two issues before annual meeting and must publish need slate of officer candidates and the agenda.

The discussion turned to the job of composing the newsletter, which Bob would like to relinquish. Lester has been looking for a new editor for two years. Bob has seen other non-profits use outside entities to compose newsletter, which would cost money. Craig Dickstein suggested placing a notice in the newsletter asking for a new editor and Lester suggested searching for a paid editor. Those in attendance at this meeting

thought Lester should be permitted to search for options. Bob recommended that it should be someone with knowledge of the club.

Baxter State Park Committee: Lester reported for the Baxter State Park Committee, which has been renamed as the State Partners Committee, and hopes to include all state agencies involved with the Trail. The committee met in December to discuss trails connected to Baxter State Park and trail work in the park. Lester reported a good meeting getting projects into the BSP planning process.

Trail Crew Committee: Lester also reported for the Trail Crew Committee. The Trail Crew has only five0 projects this year, including several weeks on Third and Fourth Mountains. Employee positions are now posted for both the Trail Crew and CARE. Both those entities hope to make selections in February. The Trail Crew Committee has decided to move its schedule to a week later in the spring, to avoid site visits in the snow.

Signs for trails connecting to the AT: Lester distributed discussion points on signs at junctions of the AT and side trails. He noted several changes as side trails established and maintained by other organizations, and intersections with those trails, have become more prevalent; some of the maintaining organizations have their own signs. He proposes a uniform policy stating that signs on the AT are ours and signs on other groups' side trails are theirs, even though in the corridor. Craig Dickstein cited the example of the Arnold Trail, which has an MATC sign and a reference to the AEHT. Several members here gave opinions that all signs in the AT corridor, whether on the Trail or on a connector trail, should be standard MATC signs. Bob Cummings placed a motion to that effect. Dave Field seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted its approval.

Louis Chartier, expressed his concern regarding responsibility for signage from the Trail intersection to the corridor boundary. Craig Dickstein suggested that Dave Field review the current wording in the LMP.

2015 Northeast Alpine Gathering: Lester advised Executive Committee members that the 2015 Northeast Alpine Gathering, which several members of the panel would like to attend, is scheduled for November 8, the day after the November 7 EC meeting. Those at this gathering agreed that the November meeting should be held a week earlier, on October 30.

Volunteer Recognition Committee: Tony Barrett, on behalf of the Volunteer Recognition Committee, reminded the group to submit nominations for Walter Greene Award and other service awards. Susan Tompkins can send a reminder via mail chimp.

With business concluded, Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Mike Ewing, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 3:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Clain
Recording Secretary