

Maine Appalachian Trail Club
January 14, 2017
Jewett Hall, UMA

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice President, Mike Ewing; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Corresponding Secretary, Doug Dolan; Directors, Tony Barrett, Laura Flight, Bruce Grant, Audrey Laffely, Sherri Langlais, Don Stack, Dick Welsh; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Craig Dickstein, Ron Dobra, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill, Rick Ste. Croix; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; ATC Regional Director and Resources Manager, Hawk Metheny, Claire Polfus; Finance Committee Chair, Tom Lewis; Development Committee Chair, Tim Fortune; CARE Committee, Bill Millis; Members, Tom Carr, Steve Clark, Ann Huntington, Jon Huntington, Michelle Moody, Stan Moody, Ray Ronan; Campaign Director, Alicia Nichols.

Absent:

Lester Kenway called the session to order at 9:05 am, with introductions of all those present.

Suggestions and Recommendations for working with the news media: Susan Tompkins presented recommendations for working with news media, including a handout with media protocols: 1) delay the conversation; 2) commit to call them back; 3) create a response through a methodical planning process; 4) be helpful; 5) follow up; 6) make final notes. Her overall recommendations were to offer a balance of positive and negative viewpoints, thank them for their interest, and refer them to the appropriate experts on the subject. If unsure, call Susan Tompkins. On the topic of the Trail Center, the standard comment should be: "We're in the quiet phase; contact me later, when the campaign becomes public."

Susan cautioned that anyone who speaks on topics related to MATC may be cited as the official representative; if called on as a representative of the group, give the official stance, not one's personal opinion. She cautioned that "Off the record" becomes an open invitation to quote.

Public interest in the AT and MATC are an indication of how attuned Maine and New England have become to Trail issues in the past couple years, the results of the club's PR campaign, and of recent publications and movies.

When asked about the confusion between MATC and AMC, Susan explained that AMC has national branding, and even nationally there is sometimes confusion between AMC and ATC, an inevitable confusion because of acronyms.

Finally, let Susan know if you are interviewed and there's an article, so she can be aware and prepared.

The ATC Landscape Initiative: Claire Polfus spoke on the ATC Landscape Conservation Initiative. She gave a brief history of the AT corridor, which was begun in 1968, with 3200 individual land transactions and one agreement along the full length of the Trail. The corridor was established with an amendment in 1978 to the National Trail Systems Act.

Ever increasing threatened landscapes prompted the beginnings about two years ago of an AT Landscape Conservation Initiative. AT administrators recognized a need to go wider than the official 1000 foot corridor because of threats to the view shed, the water shed, wildlife habitat,

ecosystems, historic sites, cultural landscapes, and outdoor recreation. Potential threats come from development, wind and solar power installations, and climate change.

Acquisition is being carried out by land trusts, including the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, and the Trust for Public Lands. There are concerns for what these acquisitions will mean for management, maintenance, and stewardship. To the question of which boundary we monitor in the case of a large added tract, the original boundary or the new one, Claire explained that it depends on the management protocol for the particular tract. To the question of how ATC work differs from MATLT, Claire explained that it doesn't; currently MATLT is the biggest partner to ATC in this initiative, serving in the role of coordinator. In other states, there aren't specific land trusts focused on the AT; Maine works as a state more than do other states. The role of ATC is that of a coordinator in this effort, to complement MATLT.

On a historical note, it becomes difficult in some cases for state or federal government to trade away land, so MATC continues to maintain sections that had been intended to be traded. Sometimes boundary lines become muddled, muddling questions of management.

Land acquired by a land trust requires a stewardship plan and endowment; land acquired by NPS doesn't, which may cause problems. In some cases, NPS may not be able to handle transferred land, while a land trust can. Claire emphasized that none of these NPS moves has happened yet, but we want to be prepared. MATLT is integral to this land acquisition project; MATLT and ATC are partners and MATLT, MATC, ATC and NPS are all involved. MATLT would be responsible for management of lands that are not incorporated into NPS, but remain as abutters. Most of these projects will not become part of the NPS, so will require other management plans, likely through MATLT.

Changes to the MOU between ATC and MATC: Hawk Metheny responded to a question regarding the new ATC Field Coordinator and the New Trail Assessment and how or if this is changing the MOU with MATC. The original MOU's were created and signed in 1997. Some states have changed their procedures since then and some haven't. Representatives from all 31 clubs met to revise the agreements and create a template. Some pieces are standard, some are specific; each starts with a definition of the partnership and then proceeds to complete the MOU. ATC, working with its RPC, is aiming to examine and revise all MOU's over two years. The process is: ATC meets with representatives of the club Executive Committee, reviews the MOU, itemizes differences, and examines the document to see where changes fit. Hawk recommended that the MATC Executive Committee decide now to prioritize this process, and have a draft MOU ready for its May meeting.

Dave Field asked about references to boundary monitoring; the draft indicates that MATC will identify boundary lines, but does not mention maintaining them. Hawk acknowledged that this will have to be discussed. He added that initiatives toward land conservation, outreach, youth education are new since the 1997 agreements.

Steve Clark questioned how to include references to sections that do not have a designated boundary; Hawk explained that we wouldn't want to include responsibility for monitoring or managing a boundary line that doesn't exist, so would have to note those discrepancies in the document.

Ron Dobra observed that there is no acknowledgement of the Maine Trail Crew and its work. Hawk explained that it's an item that is unique to New England, so has not been included in a standard template but should be included in this MOU, defining how ATC supports and MATC implements these major trail projects.

Bruce Grant questioned the timing of this review process, given MATC's obligations to the Biennial Conference, the Trail Crew and a looming capital campaign. Hawk agreed that it may not be realistic to take this on this winter to spring.

MATC is the first club Hawk and Claire have approached. They emphasized that this review is a process, and that the template is just a guide, and not the completed document. It should be discussed and reviewed in a sub-committee, but the final document will require ratification by the entire Executive Committee.

ATC Field Coordinator: Claire and Hawk referred to the ATC Field Coordinator position description, which ATC created, with input from Lester. The position was modeled on the conservation steward position at the Kellogg center. They plan the position to be May to mid-September. Some here commented on the high expectations of the job description, particularly given that it's only a seasonal position. Hawk recognizes that they're not going to get someone who fits all qualifications; they will start with the best candidate and then fit the job to that person. There is also concern for a lack of continuity, given that this is a seasonal position and that a good portion of the time on the job will be spent in training. Claire and Hawk both explained that there is a large population of people who have worked on the Trail in some capacity, and are interested in moving into the Trail management hierarchy. There is an avenue to continuing this work, with this position as a gateway to move into a career path. Lester added that everything depends on the individual; it's a narrow niche, but they're out there.

Claire hopes to advertise the position by the end of January, distribute the post to partners, and share the link with our PR agents. ATC is using formal and informal means of communicating information about the position. She hopes to hire the person by mid-March.

2017 ATC Biennial Conference: Tony Barrett and Sherri Langlais had a list of suggestions for how the general club membership can help with the 2017 Biennial ATC meeting, August 4 – 10. They showed photos of the facilities at Colby College. The contract for the venue has been finalized. They expect 1200 to 1500 people to attend. The Biennial Steering Committee has plans in place for 50 workshops, 20 guided excursions, and 250 hikes. They have scheduled a pre-conference symposium on art and conservation. They will need help on site, and are seeking club volunteers to cover shifts in all areas, from registration, to help with setting up events, and a club volunteer to be present at each workshop. Job descriptions will be available by mid-February. Planners are in need of hike leaders, although leaders cannot sign up until general registration for the conference opens on-line on May 1. Requirements for leading hikes will be different from normal; they prefer a trained person for the lead, although the second lead does not need special training. The Steering Committee plans a mass e-mail to membership highlighting volunteer opportunities.

Sherri is asking the Executive Committee to create and sign an article of support, and to serve as a welcoming committee at the event.

The choice of the Maine venue was announced at the last Biennial meeting, and attendees at that event were enthusiastic about attending a conference in Maine. Advertising within the club so far has been by word of mouth and through announcements and a short video at the last annual meeting. The conference has its own Facebook page. The next AT Journeys magazine will have information and an advertisement for the event, with articles in the following edition.

The Steering Committee is still looking for items to raffle. Sherri asked that anyone who has a small business, consider donating an item, such as a weekend in a cabin, or gift certificates.

Guidebook Review: Ray Ronan and Ron Dobra spoke on the review of the Maine AT Guidebook. With the reprint in the last season while waiting for a review of the format, MATC's guidebook is now the oldest one on sale. At that time, the plan was to revise the guidebook and release a new edition to coincide with the Biennial Conference. Much of the discussion revolves around format; in 2000, ATC sold 2500 sets of the printed guidebooks and in 2016 they sold 1200 sets. Ray explained that we printed 10,000 copies in 2004 and sold them in 6 years. He sees no reason to change the numbers of printed copies, although he recognizes that it may take longer period to sell out. We get a lower printing price with 10,000 editions. He said that revisions are in place, and feels it is possible to have a new guidebook ready for August.

Ron favors print guidebooks, but with better marketing. He observed that most seasoned hikers still value a print guide, especially for information about outlying access, and access to towns. He added that we've maintained and marked the trail so well, and many hikers don't see a need for maps in Maine. There is competition with other guides, both print and digital, but it's not as fierce as might be anticipated. Maps are indispensable; guide books, which provide background information, are less necessary. ATC and other trail maintaining organizations bundle maps and guidebooks; MATC is the only one who sells maps separately.

To a suggestion that we move to a non-print, electronic version of our materials, Ray commented that relying on a non-print, electronic version leaves us open to cyber-theft of information and a loss of profits. He also noted that images on a phone are limited in size and scope, so are not as useful as a fold-out print map. Claire Polfus commented that promotion and point of sale are critical. She suggested that we require purchase for download; this is not secure, and we can't limit access, so such a move could harm the revenue stream. She agreed that paper is better.

Ray pointed to a strictly profit motive; if we print 10,000 copies, we'll sell them, although the time period for doing so may be longer than in the past. To a question of whether such a print product would be out of date by the time it was sold out, Ray countered that the NEPA process slows the relocation process, so the Trail is changing more slowly than in the past.

Stan Moody commented that most people buying maps sets are those who are interested, casual hikers, not long-distance hikers, and that they will continue to buy the product. Elsa added that many people contact her to buy single maps, and she lets them know that for just a little more money, they can have the whole set.

Suggestions were made at the winter meeting last year to examine the design of the maps. Ray hasn't investigated other formats and would need more time. He did note that the latest edition of the maps is digitized but not georeferenced.

Hawk reminded that the Biennial Conference provides a pulse in sales and recommended we aim for that event to launch a new product.

Controlling the Numbers: Ron Dobra spoke on the subject of controlling numbers. He provided ATC's 2016 hiker numbers, which showed a 25% increase in north bounders, with 70% of them registered, and a 19% increase in south bounders. 1231 people finished the south to north hike, up from 500 in the early 2000's. 2016 campsite capacity saw an increase of 5000 overnights in five years. The Kennebec ferry has seen an increase of 1000 in three years. On any given night, there are 556 people camping at shelters on the AT in Maine.

Tony Barrett says hiker comments are generally positive, and Tim Fortune adds that it's crowded, but it only takes one person to impact the experience. Michelle Moody noted that people who don't go through the Monson trail center, who go directly to trail head, are less likely to know about permitting. Ron reminded that permitting systems are in use on other trails and that some NPS lands require a permit. The Pacific Crest Trail sets a limit of 50 people

starting per day and there's a penalty for infraction on NPS land, but not on other lands along that trail. The carrying capacity of the trail is hard to determine; the physical carrying capacity is different, higher than the social carrying capacity. There have been reports of lines for viewpoints, often due to day hikers, which impacts satisfaction with the experience.

Hawk Metheny observed that groups at campsites may dominate that site, impacting other hikers. Holly Sheehan added that camp groups are increasing traffic and use. The CARE Committee is looking into ways to strengthen group outreach and to take advantage of the new ATC group registration web site. A CARE subcommittee plans to make visits to organizations that send groups to the Trail, to increase the dialog and increase education. Hawk noted that Vermont Trail managers report that group outreach has 80% compliance. Claire Polfus recognized that high use campsites will not offer a wilderness experience, but there is still the wilderness experience on the Trail itself. She suggested we emphasize a primitive experience, not a "path through the wilderness."

Craig relies on numbers from the ferry, which have shown double digit growth every year for the last three years. He recognized that increases in Trail and ferry use moves in waves and cycles, often due to political and economic influences. Hawk agreed that we need to manage the Trail for growth trends. We need more statistical research before we draw any conclusions and make changes. He recommends we encourage hikers to spread themselves out. Stan Moody observed that most people leave a shelter at the same time, so clump together; it's a choice hikers make.

Lester Kenway called the business meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Recording Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report for the November 4 meeting was distributed late, and Executive Committee members had not had a chance to review it. Elsa Sanborn placed a motion to postpone consideration of the November minutes to the next meeting. Craig Dickstein seconded the motion, and the Executive Committee approved the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's Report, which indicates total assets of \$451,689.

She offered a clarification of the funds designated to the Trail Center; monies donated, including pledges and grants, are in a money market fund and were \$278,000 as of end of September. Tom Gorrill requested that Elsa separate out the Trail Center funding, so we know where it stands. Elsa will work to clarify this item.

Lester accepted the Treasurer's Report on behalf of the Executive Committee.

Preliminary MATC Budget for 2017 -2018: Tom Lewis spoke to the preliminary budget and a memorandum he had distributed. This is a first draft. Tom will continue to work with the Finance Committee to refine the budget, and will bring a completed list to the March meeting for approval by the Executive Committee. The budget will then be brought to the Annual Meeting for approval by the general membership. The budget will be incorporated into the Quick Books program, which should result in better cash management.

The budget indicates \$261,800 in expenditures. It includes costs for maintaining the Longley property, in The Forks. Tom recommends the club sell the property, and others clarified that this plan has already been in place, but we need to wait for a conservation easement to be finalized.

There is money included in the budget for the costs of contracting a bookkeeping position. The Finance Committee wants to move forward with this plan, and included a draft job description for that position. Tom assured that an independent contractor in this position will be a benefit to the club and will provide for continuity. The committee plans to begin interviews for the position this month.

Tom announced that Purdy Powers will do an annual review audit beginning in January. Elsa has been involved in preparing for that audit.

Tom noted that the club has spent \$134,000 to date on the capital campaign, and he advised that we need to balance money raising for routine costs and those for the capital campaign.

Tom still needed input from overseers for project specific materials funds requests.

Ron Dobra noted that guidebook expenses were not included in the budget. They will come from the reserve fund. Tom acknowledged it should be in a separate account, and should go out to bid.

Tony Barrett was pleased to see professional services costs listed in the budget; he is concerned for legislative costs.

The Executive Committee voted to endorse the draft version of the budget to carry forward for refinements to be presented at the March meeting.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Doug Dolan presented his report as Corresponding Secretary. E-mails have been steady, with little serious or Trail specific correspondence.

Nominating Committee Report: Mike Ewing spoke for the Nominating Committee, comprised of himself, Audrey Laffely and Ken Spaulding. With support from the Executive Committee at the last meeting, the club is moving to a three-year staggered cycle for Executive Committee positions. Some officers on the slate for this year will serve a one-year term, some two years, and some three years. The proposed slate is:

President, Kenway Lester; Vice President, Tom Gorrill; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Corresponding Secretary, Doug Dolan; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Irene Syphers, Bill Brooke, Tom Carr, Laura Flight, Bruce Grant, Tony Barrett, Dick Welsh, Audrey Laffely; Overseer of Lands, David Field; District Overseers, Mike Ewing, Baldpate, Dick Fecteau, Bigelow, Craig Dickstein, Kennebec, Rick Ste. Croix, Katahdin. The Nominating Committee is still looking for an Overseer for the White Cap District.

The change to staggered three-year terms requires a constitutional amendment, which must be adopted at the Annual Meeting in April, and a by-laws change, which can be voted on by this group. Executive Committee members had the opportunity to review changes proposed by the Nominating Committee. Their document addresses numbers of Executive Committee members and the voting rights of Assistant Overseers.

In order to bring a constitutional amendment proposal to the Annual Meeting, the Executive Committee must approve the proposal at the January meeting, publish it in the next MAINetainer in January, and then present it for a vote in April. To that end, Ron Dobra placed a motion to accept a constitutional amendment as follows: Strike the statement "In the absence of any Overseer, the Assistant Overseer of the absent Overseer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee at any constituted meeting of that committee." Change the statement regarding officers as follows: "The officers shall be elected by a majority of the members voting at the annual Club meeting. The officers shall hold office for three years or until their successors are elected and qualified. Transition. In 2017 seven officers shall be elected for a one year term, six officers shall be elected for a two year term, and six officers shall be elected

for a three year term." Craig Dickstein seconded the motion with discussion to add the word Recording to the Secretary position. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

The Nominating Committee also proposed a by-laws change to address the issue of attendance at meetings. It adds the following statement to the duties of officers: "Officers shall attend all meetings of the Executive Committee except as good cause prevents them from attending." It also alters the description of the Nominating Committee, changing the term "biennial" to "annual" and striking the term "in every odd-numbered year." The by-laws can be modified by the Executive Committee, but there remains a question about whether they can be changed before the constitution has been officially changed.

Elsa Sanborn questioned the wording of the proposed change to article IV regarding good causes for absences; it's judgment. Ron Dobra thinks we need to keep the statement, to allow leverage for a non-participatory member.

Dave Field placed a motion, seconded by Dick Welsh, to approve the by-laws changes contingent on the membership accepting the changes to the constitution. The Executive Committee voted to accept the motion.

Mike Ewing placed a motion to accept the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee. Craig Dickstein seconded the motion. The Executive Committee voted to accept the slate.

The slate of candidates will be published in the next MAINEtainer. Craig asked for biographical information to be published for each.

ATC Report: Claire Polfus spoke to the ATC report. ATC has received a grant from Hydroflask in support of the Monson Visitor Center operations. The Libra Foundation bought the Visitor Center building, in Monson. ATC is waiting to see what happens with that facility.

Claire would like input from a representative of MATC in hiring the new Field Coordinator. Lester agreed to serve on the hiring committee for that position.

Claire would welcome participation from MATC Executive Committee members at the MYTaSC (Maine Youth Trail and Stewardship Coalition) event at Roberts Farm, on March 12. She is looking for workshop leaders and experts in trail maintenance. The young people who have attended these sessions have requested training in skills for maintaining trails; they are building experience for working on the trail crew.

Wind Power and Power Lines Committee Report: Tony Barrett reported for the Wind Power and Transmission Lines Committee. The bill MATC initiated, An Act to Protect the Scenic Character of Maine's Special Places, has been submitted. It's the third time MATC has been involved in submitting legislation. The bill calls for a visual impact assessment for any proposed wind energy development within the view shed of specific (including a number of A. T. viewpoints) scenic resources of state or national significance for up to 15 miles.

2017 ATC Meeting Steering Committee Report: Tony Barrett and Sherri Langlais reported on progress for the 2017 ATC Biennial Conference. Tony referred to a hand out showing metrics comparing numbers for this and previous biennial meetings. The schedules for hikes, excursions and workshops have been set. They won't take any volunteers until registration for the conference opens in May. Contact Tony or Sherri for further information. Organizers will use the club data base to target volunteers to needs. Volunteers will receive a t-shirt and the opportunity to attend and participate; there are no financial advantages for volunteering.

Communication Committee Report: Doug Dolan spoke for the Communications Committee. The deadline for the next MAINEtainer was January 29.

Doug spoke about proposals to supplement club brochures created a couple years ago. When supplies ran low, the Communications Committee began to examine cost versus effectiveness for the color brochures. They are considering post cards, mostly designed to direct people to the web site, and targeted to the special interests of the individuals.

The web site keeps crashing. If we're moving people away from paper to the web site to save paper and expense, we need a more reliable site and server. The current Wordpress structured website seems to be liable to viruses and hacking. The Communications Committee will meet again to review the issue with the web site.

To a question regarding who manages the web site content, Doug advised that any suggestions for content should be submitted to him or to Susan Tompkins and they'll handle it; as long as it fits the club mission, it will be posted.

CARE Committee Report: Holly Sheehan reported for the CARE Committee. Their hiring sub-committee is in place and is reviewing applicants. Both CARE and the Trail Crew have fewer applicants this year than usual. A sub-committee of CARE is doing outreach to groups that use the Trail.

Holly asked how to involve CARE personnel in the Biennial, and the answer was just send them to registration.

Club Coordinator Report: Holly referred to her Club Coordinator Report, and had nothing to add.

Overseer of Lands Report: Dave Field gave his report as Overseer of Lands. He noted a busy corridor monitor season, with seasonal employees and American Hiking Society volunteers adding a lot of work. Dave is in the process of building the narrative report. He plans to examine monitor assignments, reconfiguring to make shorter sections, similar to what has been happening with maintainer sections.

Weyerhaeuser bought Plum Creek. That company pays \$500 each for three of their employees to volunteer as corridor monitors.

Dave referred to discussion in recent years that MATC require boat owners to register their boats stored on NPS land. To date the federal government hasn't taken a stand, a reaction to frequent criticisms of its actions.

District Overseer Reports:

Tom Gorrill said that the district report for Bald Pate is posted on-line. There are no openings at this time.

Dick Fecteau said that the Bigelow report is also on line and has no vacancies.

Craig Dickstein reported that the Kennebec District has one opening, for the Horseshoe Canyon section and campsite; he plans to advertise it as two openings and will post the vacancy in the MAINEtainer and on the web site.

The Maine Outing Club has agreed to give up their section, and Craig will advertise it and likely fill the vacancy with the person who approached him about the section; as any openings have to be advertised, Craig can't just reassign the section without going through the proper procedure.

Craig will write descriptions of sections in the Kennebec District that Carey Kish requested for the revised AMC guide.

Craig questions the Pine Island Camps maintainer assignment, Pierce Pond to the Kennebec River; they camp but don't do any maintaining.

Steve Clark praised the Bog Bridge over Arnold Bog as excellent, well-built and well-installed.

Ron Dobra reported that all vacancies in the White Cap District are filled; he had just assigned the White Brook Trail.

A Boy Scout troop installed 25 feet of bog bridging in Wilson Valley.

Ron has 150 feet of bog bridging waiting on a permit to move materials in by snow mobile to be in place for Trail Crew work on the Pleasant River Tote Road in the summer.

The Nominating Committee is still looking to fill the White Cap Overseer position.

Rick Ste. Croix reported that all positions in the Katahdin District are filled. He assigned two new maintainers in the last season. Stuart Whitman will maintain the section from the Baxter State Park Tote Road to the Highwater Trail, and Charles Moody will maintain the section from Nesuntabunt Mountain to the south end of Nahmakanta Lake. Rick will send a season report to MAINEtainer and the web site soon.

Campsite Committee Report: Laura Flight spoke for the Campsite Committee. At their meeting in November they reviewed a tip sheet for how to maintain a moldering privy. They will distribute the document when it is finalized.

They plan to construct a privy on site at the Biennial Conference, and then move it into place.

Bill Millis has joined the Campsite Committee as a representative from the CARE Committee, to coordinate the work of the two groups.

Claire met with members of the Campsite Committee to assess capacity in the Hundred Mile Wilderness and to discuss Hazard Trees.

The committee is considering increasing the rate of privy replacement to three per year to meet increased demand; Laura explained that it's a two-year process to plan, obtain permits, and install a privy.

Trail Crew Committee Report: Lester spoke for the Trail Crew Committee. They have discussed security problems at base camp. Lester visited base camp with an employee from a security company. They discussed door sensors and a camera on a pole, among options for securing the premises.

Lester reported that advertising is in place for employees, but responses have been low. No one from last year has contacted him about coming back.

Lester also said the Trail Crew is still looking for one three-week project for this summer.

Tony Barrett asked if Trail Crew leaders can have some designated time at the Biennial Conference; Lester explained that MCC will send their crew to the Biennial Conference for its in-service learning.

Trail Champions Campaign Report: Alicia Nichols reported for the Trail Champions capital campaign. That committee has major gift solicitations on-going, with three naming gifts in place.

Hawk Metheny commented that the Biennial Conference offers a good opportunity to profile the Trail Crew's work when people are hiking. Hawk suggested that hike leaders point out trail work, explain about the Trail Crew, its work and its needs.

Baxter State Park Committee Report: Lester reported that the Baxter State Park Committee met in December. He met with the park's two trail specialists and worked on plans for the Hunt Trail relocation. MCC will clear trees, and the MTC will do stone work on the trail. He noted that MATC has a better relationship with BSP as a result of these meetings.

Planning for the Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will take place at Pettingill Hall at Bates College, in Lewiston, on April 8. The day will consist of morning workshops and a business meeting. Lester asked for help with planning. Craig Dickstein, Dave Field, Doug Dolan, Tony Barrett and Tom Gorrill volunteered to help.

With all agenda items covered, Dave Field placed a motion to adjourn, seconded by Elsa Sanborn.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Clain
Recording Secretary
February 13, 2017