

Maine Appalachian Trail Club  
Executive Committee Meeting  
September 9, 2016  
UMA

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice President, Mike Ewing; Recording Secretary, Janice Clain; Corresponding Secretary, Doug Dolan; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Tony Barrett, Laura Flight, Audrey Laffely, Sherri Langlais; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; District Overseers, Craig Dickstein, Ron Dobra, Rick Ste. Croix; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; Campaign Director, Alicia Nichols

Absent: Directors, Bruce Grant, Don Stack; District Overseers, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill

President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm.

**Recording Secretary's Report:** Janice Clain presented the Secretary's Report for the May 6 meeting. The presentation by the Trust for Public Lands was very difficult to follow, and the minutes presented the discussion as thoroughly as possible. Elsa placed a motion to accept the Secretary's Report, seconded by Dave Field. The Executive Committee voted to accept the report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's Report, which indicated \$596,000 in assets, that includes the capital campaign and some guidebooks. The fund balances have not been updated since March 30, but have not seen many changes. The report shows a negative balance for net income because some grant monies have not been received. The last page is activity for the length of the capital campaign, which is listed separately

At Lester's suggestion, the Executive Committee asked the president to accept the Treasurer's Report on its behalf.

**Corresponding Secretary's Report:** Doug Dolan presented the Corresponding Secretary's Report. He has seen a steady flow of e-mails, many from people planning hiking trips in the fall. He reported a lot of interest in the Grafton Loop Trail. He has become aware of discrepancies in the GLT maps, with changes in the MATC and AMC materials that have not been updated and coordinated.

**ATC Report:** The ATC report e-mailed from Claire Polfus includes numbers from the Monson visitor center, Baxter State Park, and the Kennebec ferry. Those figures provide justification for the new field coordinator position. ATC asks for MATC approval to proceed with its proposal for that position. Dave Field noted that it is not clear how the new position will be funded; Lester assumes ATC will provide funding. Tony asked if the proposal was prepared with Lester's input; Lester said he was not involved. The proposal for the new position indicates that it will be a dedicated resource

to Maine, five months per year, to support CARE and the Trail Crew. The person will report to Claire, who is responsible to the New England ATC regional office. Some at this meeting feel that ATC wants to take over management of MATC programs. Ron Dobra asked if ATC is now involved with MCC, and heard that they help with funding. Lester explained that this proposal is somewhat a result of the new Trail assessment that ATC is conducting, and that has not yet reached Maine. Sherri Langlais added that this proposal is timely given Lester's announced retirement as Trail Crew Supervisor in 2020.

Lester had anticipated that Hawk Metheny would be in attendance at this meeting. He suggested that the Executive Committee continue the discussion when Hawk and Claire could be present. The Executive Committee agreed to postpone the discussion to the next meeting.

**Wind Power and Power Lines Report:** Tony Barrett had nothing to report for the Wind Power Committee as the last meeting was in April.

**ATC 2017 Biennial Conference:** Tony Barrett and Sherri Langlais reported on plans for the 2017 Biennial Conference. With the event only 11 months away, plans are proceeding nicely, and all committees are working. The steering committee still needs a few more volunteers. Tony and Sherri distributed a draft conference schedule, and explained that preparation of the printed program is under way. Steve Clark, who managed the last Biennial in Maine, has been involved in planning.

**Communications Committee – MAINEtainer Report:** Doug Dolan spoke for the Communications Committee. The new process is relatively hands-off; Jason Phelps compiles the articles, Doug reviews them, and Jason takes the prototype to the print shop in Bangor, which prints and mails the newsletter. About 250 members have opted out of a print edition, preferring a digital only newsletter. The current edition of the newsletter is smaller, so less expensive to print and distribute.

There is still discussion of color versus black and white printing.. Doug will investigate a printer in Scarborough that has cheaper costs for color. He expects to have some comparison costs for the November meeting.

**Review of MATC Brochure Design:** Doug reported on a review of the MATC brochure design. The supply of glossy printed brochures is running low. Doug asked Vreeland Marketing for a quote for printing 2500 more brochures, and their figures were very high. Vreeland suggests sending black and white brochures to those individuals. Doug will poll the Communications Committee and will ask for recommendations for something simple to send to register card respondents. Lester suggests that we start budgeting for brochures so we can handle these unexpected needs.

**Campsite Committee Report:** Laura Flight reported for the Campsite Committee. They have established the new campsite on Black Brook. There are now three earthen tent platforms and a mouldering privy. They had a lot of help from the Dirigo High School student volunteers.

Laura announced that Claire Polfus is looking for support for the club's twenty-year privy replacement project, to get blanket approval from the Regional Planning Committee. With this format, we can expedite the approval process by presenting the long term plan and obtaining approval as a "batch."

To this end, Laura placed a motion authorizing MATC to submit its twenty-year privy replacement plan to RPC for a batch approval. Craig Dickstein seconded the motion. The Executive voted its approval.

**Care Committee Report:** Holly Sheehan reported for the CARE Committee. There is no final report as the season is still ongoing; pack outs will take place on October 15, and the wrap up meeting on October 16. Holly reported on the highlights of a great season. Elysha Dyer is the new group registration coordinator. She has kept staff informed of groups coming to their areas. There were some issues with website registration early in the season, but they are now resolved. ATC has a new camp group registration system, and the CARE Committee is reviewing it. Glen Mittelhauser conducted alpine training on Saddleback early in the season. CARE staff meet annually mid-season to attend to the privy at Horns Pond and to debrief. Staff had a second gathering this year, in early August, to clean brush from the helicopter landing area at Gulf Hagas. Caretakers from Piazza Rock and Horns Pond had a chance to see the operation at the Gulf, which is very different from the high use camping areas at the other two sites.

**Club Coordinator Update:** Holly added to her written Club Coordinator's report. She needs approval to submit an application for the Recreational Trails Program. Monies from that grant are used to fund the Trail Crew and CARE. Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Audrey Laffely, to authorize Holly to submit an application for an RTP grant. The Executive Committee voted to approve the motion.

Holly explained that preparations for the annual appeal letter, which solicits funding for CARE, are underway. The Development Committee is soliciting a new photo to include in the annual appeal letter.

**Maine Trail Crew Update:** Lester reported for the Maine Trail Crew. They started their season on the Hunt Trail in May, constructing 75 steps and 8 water bars. This was preparation for a major relocation project scheduled to begin next year. Other projects this season included the east end of Rainbow Lake, 75 stone steps, Logan Brook, above and below the lean-to, 75 stone steps, and the west side of White Cap, 34 stone steps.

In addition to the Maine Trail Crew, a Student Conservation Crew was at Rainbow Dam for three weeks and built 200 step stones. MCC, which is scheduled in

western Maine, worked on Bemis Mountain, the Highland View crossing at route 17 and a section south of Route 4. MCC also built 109 steps on Sugarloaf.

Lester wants to call a Trail Crew Committee meeting for late September or early October to discuss plans.

**Overseer of Lands Report:** Dave Field reported that he has four new monitors. The American Hiking Society planned to camp at Lily Bay to work on boundaries on White Cap. Dave is cutting some of the longer assignments in smaller segments. He and other volunteers planned to work in Ellitsville to move the Trail back to within the corridor.

The Berry Pickers Trail inauguration was scheduled for September 17.

### **District Overseer Reports:**

Craig Dickstein reported for the Kennebec District. Greg Caruso has been the ferryman this season. He has had a successful summer and is working out well. He reports a 14% increase in use, which is less than the expected "Bryson Effect." The ferry has operated on fixed hours, 9 am to 2 pm. This schedule seems to have worked out well, although some hikers want longer hours.

Craig and Claire checked Pierce Pond, looking to relocate the Trail off Pierce Pond Dam to ford the stream at a lower point. Craig closed the Pleasant Pond privy because it was full. Volunteers planned to replace the privy the next weekend after this meeting.

The Monson staff has been ridge running as far south as Pierce Pond. They reported finding people gold mining in Horseshoe Canyon.

Craig reported problems with many illegal fire rings.

Ron Dobra reported on the Whitecap District. He has five new maintainers appointed for four openings, with one still to fill, but an interested party.

Ron helped two college groups, from Bowdoin and Colby, for orientation projects

Ron worked with volunteers on four privy tipping trips this summer, to delay replacement. He supported the Trail Crew on several projects in his district. He also worked with an arborist and a crew of four for two days to remove trees from Gulf Hags canyon. The work was funded by a grant from Plum Creek, now Weyerhaeuser. The work is 60% completed, and opened up vistas on the Rim Trail. Ron worked with Holly to reapply for a grant to complete the work in the next season.

Rick Ste. Croix reported that he had two openings in the Katahdin District, at Daicy Pond and from Nahmakanta Lake to Nesuntabunt, both now filled.

Crews replaced steps at the privy at Rainbow Stream lean-to and at Nahmakanta Stream.

Rick said his maintainers reported good results using the biopress (enzyme) product, donated by North Maine Woods, in privies.

**Trail Champions Campaign Update:** Alicia Nichols reported on the Trail Champions Campaign. The campaign remains in the quiet phase until its initial goal of \$1.9 million is reached. The Campaign Committee is currently involved in solicitation. On May 12 Lester and others presented to the AMC Executive Committee. The Trail Champions Committee has a potential list of 88 major donor prospects and is expecting an outside major gift. Active solicitation began in June. Major gift solicitations will begin in earnest in the fall. The Quimby Family Foundation has agreed to contribute a second \$30,000 grant.

**Resignation from Executive Committee:** Lester reported that Dan Simonds resigned his Director's position late in June. He will still be active with CARE and with the Rangeley Trail Community. Craig Dickstein asked if there is any interest in soliciting any of our partner organizations; he recommends a direct approach to a partner organization. Alicia cautioned about inviting a potential donor if there's any possibility of them not accepting. Tony cited an example of an LL Bean representative on the AMC board. There were some discussion and cautions to this proposal. Lester recommended a committee to consider the situation and devise a recommendation for a later meeting.

Lester reminded the group of a recommendation last spring to examine whether to propose any constitutional amendments, in particular regarding makeup of the Executive Committee. He also noted that he will be appointing a Nominating Committee in October, in preparation for elections in the spring of 2017. Lester said he would propose a Nominating Committee within two weeks.

**Announcements of upcoming events:**

Craig Dickstein announced that Chainsaw safety training was scheduled for October 1 and 2, in Denmark. The training was fully subscribed, with eight students for initial certification. They would start with bucking and limbing, and return in the next session for felling.

The next NERPC meeting will take place on October 22 at the Highlands Center in Crawford Notch, New Hampshire.

ATC has been working on its capital plan, updating its privy plan. Claire Polfus planned to submit Maine's privy plan by September 30.

The Hazard Tree I.D. workshop was scheduled for October 15 at UMF.

The Rangeley Trail Town celebration took place on September 3.

The Kingfield Trail Town dedication was scheduled for September 10.

With all discussion finished, Dave Field submitted a motion to adjourn, seconded by Elsa Sanborn

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Clain  
Recording Secretary  
October 23, 2016