

Green Mountain Club, Montpelier Section
Executive Committee Meeting
15 March 2005, 7:00 p.m.

The meeting at Ken Hertz's home was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Bill Clark.

In attendance: Bill Clark (President), Jill Aspinall (Vice President), David Blumenthal (Web master), Charlene Bohl (Publicity Coordinator), Ken Hertz (Treasurer), Allen Jacobs (Membership Coordinator), Fred Jordan (Alternate Director), Nancy Jordan (*Trail Talk* Editor), Sylvia Plumb (Secretary), Duncan Wilkie (Trails and Shelters Coordinator) Guest: Reidun Nuquist (GMC Montpelier Section member)

A. Old Business

- 1.) **Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting** (January 11 2005) – MOTION: accept minutes of January 11, 2005 meeting with the correction that under A.) Old Business 4.) Planning Update, there was an insurance certification for no cost. The motion **passed**.
- 2.) **50th Section Anniversary Comments** (Reidun Nuquist) ~ **Annual Meeting:** A special invitation has been sent to long-time section members. A photo display made up of eight panels will be on exhibit. NECI is donating a special cake. Doris Washburn will be narrating the special 50th Anniversary slide show. It will be 45 minutes if it is given straight through so we should plan on a bit longer to allow for comments and discussion. There is a need for a slide screen. **ACTION ITEM:** Allen Jacobs will bring the slide screen. Bill Clark thanked Reidun and the committee for all their hard work. Nancy Jordan mentioned that Doris Washburn has done an excellent job working on the photos for the exhibit and slide show. The 50th anniversary logo will be on name tags and buttons. Ken Hertz made up the buttons. Photos will be taken of the display and the meeting.
- 3.) **Review 2004 Annual Meeting Expenses** (Ken Hertz) ~ The committee discussed the value of spending money on gifts for volunteers and outgoing officers. Jill Aspinall noted that 2004 was the first year that GMC did not supply gifts. The section paid \$7 and \$11 apiece for Nalgene bottles and guidebooks. A \$25 honorarium was paid to the presenter. The gifts and honorarium totaled \$212.

Members then discussed gifts for volunteers and outgoing officers. Some committee members urged the committee to keep the cost of gifts down and stated that folks don't volunteer in order to receive stuff and that a pat on the back is good and all they expect. Some felt it is more important to spend the money on trail work. Others expressed that the amount spent on the gifts is not really that much money. Some felt that it is important to recognize volunteers with a gift. Others feel that gifts are important to encourage more people to volunteer.

MOTION: Gifts shall be limited to minor gifts. The motion was seconded.

A discussion followed about what constituted a minor gift. Some suggested a specific dollar amount be stipulated; others said that would be too difficult to operate with; other

urged that gifts be donated. Several committee members felt that if the committee gives gifts to outgoing officers then it is kind of like authorizing money to be spent on themselves. A friendly amendment was offered:

MOTION: Gifts at annual meeting shall be limited to a minor gift and outgoing officers will be excluded.

After discussion about the need to recognize officers and the suggestion that an outgoing officer can refuse a gift the motion was defeated,

MOTION DEFEATED: 2 for, 1 abstain, 7 against.

The MOTION was then presented without the friendly amendment. MOTION: Gifts at annual meeting shall be limited to a minor gift. MOTION PASSED with one abstention.

4.) Planning Update (Jill Aspinall) ~

Annual Meeting planning (April 1, 2005) ~ See Proposed Agenda document. There will be door prizes (homemade items and the flowers from each table). The committee will determine when the drawing for door prizes will take place.

Ben Rose will speak for 5-10 minutes. Dave Blumenthal will create a display for the new Sterling Pond Shelter design.

Packets: members will receive packets with

- * Cover sheet

- * Table of contents

- * Fact sheet of section accomplishments (suggested by Allen Jacobs)

ACTION: Deadline for reports to Bill C. and Jill A. is March 22.

Election of Officers: we have a full slate proposed by the Nominating Committee
Awards: Jill and Bill will do them.

A discussion followed about how to transition from the business meeting to the celebration portion. Bill C. mentioned the anniversary committee will need to be recognized. Jill said Priscilla doesn't want the limelight. ACTION: Bill C. would like a script. He will hand off chairing the meeting directly to Doris Washburn.

Sign Ups: we need sign up sheets for the SOLO class, the list-serve, want to be a trip leader, learn more about GMC.

A press release will be sent announcing the annual meeting and the 50th anniversary celebration and slide show.

5.) Nominating Committee (Allen Jacobs) ~ See attachment 2 from Reidun Nuquist. The slate needs to be announced to the membership 15 days prior to the business meeting. It will be put on the section Web site. Discussion followed about the makeup of the Nominating Committee. Reidun said the Nominating Committee should not be made of

only of Executive Committee members. The committee should be broader so the Executive Committee members can be evaluated by the membership. It is also a matter of how things are perceived. It isn't a three-year term, it is *up to* three one-year terms. It may happen that someone who does nothing or is detrimental to the section needs to be kicked off. Bill C. made the point that the Bylaws provide for that situation. He also noted that the Bylaws do not indicate who makes up the Nominating Committee. It was his judgment call when he asked Allen Jacobs, Nancy Jordan, and Duncan Wilkie to serve on the committee.

A discussion followed about how it is difficult to find people to be officers. Reidun pointed out that the broader the Nominating Committee the greater chance of finding new people.

It was also generally agreed that the Trails and Shelters Committee will be a more formal committee than it has been recently. Executive Committee members pointed out that this committee is a way to draw people in to be on the Executive Committee. Reidun thanked the committee for their time.

- 6.) Sterling Pond / Watson Camp Update (Bill Clark) ~ Things are ready to go .Eric did a presentation to the GMC Trails and Shelters Committee and it was approved. There were some questions that Eric couldn't answer because he didn't have the authority to speak on behalf of the Montpelier Section. See Proposed Fiscal Year Budget 2006 document for figures. The section will authorize GMC Waterbury to apply the \$800 currently held in a GMC restricted account to the shelter and add \$2,200 for a total of \$3,000. Peregrine Outfitters offered \$3,000. Discussion is under way with GMC headquarters about how the money will be spent on expenses. Bill C. reported that Dave Hardy wanted the Section's money to go toward the tent platforms and privy. Bill C. suggested that the donation was intended for shelter construction. Bill C. and Dave Hardy agreed that the money issue is sticky but resolvable.

Bill C. and Dave Hardy agreed that the section will put its efforts toward building the shelter rather than the busy work of lugging supplies and building the privy. The cost is not yet set. The cost could be \$4,000. Section contribution and the Peregrine donation should cover the cost of the shelter.

The following dates should be reserved in the planning schedule:

May 22, July 9, August 6, 7, and 13, 14

There is lots of work to do in addition to construction. We'd like to get a few skilled carpenters and then volunteers work on the Sterling Pond Trail and other tasks.

- 7.) Reports (written) ~ See Attachment 4 regarding job description for *Trail Talk* editor. The attachment said the process has been simplified. Nancy Jordan proposed that she do the *Trail Talk* mailing rather than the Secretary.

Jill A.: expressed concern that more things are loaded up on one job description, pointing out that it will be more difficult to fill that position in the future. Nancy and Fred J. pointed out that the process is much simpler and that it will take only two hours. Bill C.

requested that Nancy create a document describing how *Trail Talk* is created. Discussion ensued. Some folks said that is too large a burden to place on Nancy. Others said the section needs to know how things are done. Nancy J. pointed out that the next editor will do things her/his own way. ACTION: The *Trail Talk* editor will now mail *Trail Talk*.

B. New Business

- 1.) Budget Discussion for 2006** (Ken Hertz) ~ The proposed budget document will be included in the annual meeting packet. MOTION: Move that the budget as proposed by approved by the Executive Committee and present to the membership for approval. MOTION PASSED.

E-mailing the newsletter – there is not much of a savings of money to e-mail the newsletter to those who would prefer that to regular mail. And there is much more work involved to keep track of who received which type of newsletter. Let's put more of the newsletter information on the Web site.

Revolving accounts / prudent reserve ~ Ken H. would like to have an answer to why the Executive Committee has decided to keep a prudent reserve in case that question is asked at the annual meeting.

A discussion followed that included suggestions that the section keep \$2,000-\$3,000 in reserve (the average cost of a shelter). MOTION: move that 25% of the budget be in reserve.

Jill A. suggested that the reserve be a fixed sum because the budget fluctuates depending on if the section is building a shelter. MOTION: Move that \$3,000 be set aside in a prudent reserve. The Treasurer is responsible for alerting the Executive Committee of the status of that reserve.

After members discussed the motion, Ken H. moved the MOTION be tabled. Dave B. seconded it. MOTION PASSED with one opposition.

- 2.) Web site** ~ let us know if things are outdated!
- 3.) Update retiring officer's job descriptions** ~ let us know of updates that should be made.
- 4.) Other business** ~ Reidun announced that the 50th anniversary committee would like to sponsor a GMC Montpelier Section float in the Montpelier Fourth of July parade. They would like to spend \$50 for materials.

MOTION: Move that the 50th Anniversary Committee is authorized to build a float and float it in the Fourth of July parade in Montpelier. MOTION FLOATED!

Thomas Weiss will lead the float effort. Folks will be need to help make the float, march in the parade.

MOTION: that the meeting adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. MOTION PASSED.

Schedule for Executive Committee Meeting Dates –

Annual Meeting ~ April 1

July 12, 2005 ~ Executive Committee meeting at the Jordan's. The time meeting are held will be discussed.

October 12 ~ Executive Committee meeting at future times.