

**Minutes  
Green Mountain Club, Montpelier Section  
Executive Committee  
March 6, 2006**

**Special Meeting (6:30—7:00)**

A special meeting was held before the regular meeting to discuss the appointment of three officers to year-long terms. These positions are Webmaster, publicity coordinator, and Trail Talk editor.

**Present** – Fred Jordan, Mary Garcia, Jill Aspinall, Ken Hertz, Sylvia Plumb, Duncan Wilkie

**Publicity Coordinator Charlene Bohl** — will be asked to continue in this position.

**Trail Talk Editor Nancy Jordan** — will be asked to continue in this position.

**Web Master Dave Blumenthal** — will be asked to continue in this position.

MOTION: Ken Hertz moved that the people in these three positions be asked to continue another term.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION: Jill Aspinall and Bill Clark will discuss and make the requests for continuation in these roles.

The regular meeting began at 7:00 chaired by Jill Aspinall, in Bill Clark's absence.

**Old Business**

Jill Aspinall continued as chair of the meeting until Bill Clark arrived.

In attendance: Charlene Bohl, Sylvia Plumb, Ken Hertz, Jill Aspinall, Reidun Nuquist, Mary Garcia, Nancy Jordan, Fred Jordan, Deb Kerchwey, and then later Bill Clark.

**2.) Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting (18 January 2006)**

MOTION: Ken Hertz moved to accept the minutes with the submitted changes.

MOTION CARRIED

**3.) Introduction of Nominated Officers**

Jill Aspinall welcomed Deb Kirchwey, the Nominating Committee's choice for president. Jill noted that the committee chose Paul Deluca for vice president and Priscilla Daggett for alternate director. (Fred Jordan is an outgoing alternate director.) Jill also reported that Sylvia Plumb will not be continuing as secretary.

**4.) 50/50 Fundraising -- Nancy Schulz**

Nancy Schulz submitted a written final report for the 50/50 Fundraiser. In all she raised \$2,250 toward her initial \$5,000 goal. The outings ranged from easy to difficult. Of the 50 outings offered, 39 took place. They included 9 snowshoes; 8 hikes; 7 bike rides; 7 walks; 4 canoe/kayak paddles; 3 backcountry ski tours; and 1 hike/paddle combination. See written report: Final Report on the 50 50.doc. A summary of the 50/50 will go in Trail Talk.

At this point in the meeting, Ken Hertz made a motion to recess the meeting so that President Bill Clark could assume chairing the meeting that was chaired by Vice President Jill Aspinall until this point. MOTION CARRIED. After a short refreshment break, Bill Clark began chairing the meeting at 7:30 pm.

#### **5.) 50th Anniversary —Reidun Nuquist**

Reidun was reporting in Committee Chair Priscilla Page's place. She noted that the committee was a good committee (Priscilla Daggett, Mary Garcia, Ken Hertz, Nancy Jordan, Andrew and Reidun Nuquist, Doris Washburn, Thomas Weiss, and Priscilla Page, chair). She thanked Dave Blumenthal for his design of the 50th Anniversary logo and thanked Ken Hertz for having the buttons made. The committee offered special heritage outings, celebrating outings of the past that have not been offered recently. The Sugar on Snow Party led by Mary Garcia at Morse's drew 26 people and reenacted an outing from 1955. Doris Washburn's Groton State Forest outing drew 28 people.

Other anniversary projects included the 50th anniversary theme for the 2005 annual meeting and its associated photo display, birthday cake, and special guests. The section had a "float" in the Montpelier 4th of July parade. Twenty people took part and the float featured a 27-foot handmade banner that could be used by other sections. Thomas Weiss is working on a special scrapbook of the year and asks for photos that could be added to it.

The committee held its last meeting in February and has now disbanded. The one remaining project is the written section history that Reidun is working on. Priscilla will hand in a written report.

This discussion was carried over into the Treasurer's committee report (which follows later in these minutes). See the Treasurer's Report under the Executive Committee report for details about the motion made to fund publication of the section history.

#### **6.) Annual Meeting Planning – Jill Aspinall**

An electronic version of the meeting packet will be available ahead of time. The annual meeting will be held April 8 at Bethany Church. Pierre Couture will do the presentation on the Barre granite history and the Millstone Hill Touring Center.

Jill reported that a notice about the Solo First Aid workshop offering was omitted from Trail Talk. This workshop is a solid investment in the section. We've offered sign up opportunities at past annual meetings. We need to get a notice out to members through the listserv.

The schedule for annual meeting preparation: All written reports to Bill Clark by Thursday, March 23. By Wednesday, March 29 the packet will be complete and available through the Web site and by hard copy through the mail.

Comments, questions, suggestions – Last year people held back on questions to keep the meeting shorter. We received feedback that we need more time for questions. We will continue with written reports rather than read reports.

Ken Hertz asked how to handle questions about the budget surplus. Duncan Wilkie suggested we place a statement with the budget.

### **Annual Meeting Packet**

The committee went over the packet in detail. The introduction will be a farewell from President Bill Clark. It will mention significant events of the year and look forward to 2006.

Treasurers' Report — the report will mirror last year's.

Membership Report— the report will mirror last year's.

Trails and Shelters Report — will acknowledge and thank the volunteers and sponsors for the construction of Sterling Pond Shelter. Do the table of work events and emphasize Sterling Pond Shelter. Put in a list of the T&S committee.

Outings Report — this report ties in with the awards. People are recognized if they are at the top but we won't have the same winners for two years in a row.

50/50 Report — will summarize Nancy Schulz's 50/50

50th Anniversary Report — will summarize the 50th anniversary

Election of Officers — will offer the slate of officers

Oral History Project — will promote the GMC's oral history project

Capital Campaign — it is in the quiet phase. ACTION ITEM: Bill Clark will ask Eric Seidel and Andrew if a report is appropriate.

Director's Report — Fred Jordan thinks there should be one placed after the Election of Officers.

Reidun suggested we invite GMC Executive Director Ben Rose and he can come or delegate it to another staff member. ACTION ITEM: Bill Clark will invite Ben.

ACTION ITEM: Jill will ask Dave Blumenthal if he wants to put any artwork in the packet.

A discussion ensued about offering a list of questions for section members to answer. Questions could be about Trail Talk, types of outings, etc. ACTION: Submit questions to Jill. There will be a feedback/questions document at the end of the packet.

Annual Meeting Schedule — Volunteers to help with the meeting will be requested by March 25. We need folks to set up before and tidy up after the meeting. Setup around 4:00. Social hour starts at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00.

### **7.) Taylor Series Summary**

Section members' donations in kind should not skew the budget numbers for the Taylor Series event. Put them in as expenses so we have a true cost for the event.

Bill Clark reported that in general the Taylor Series event on the bird migration was a very positive presentation. There were several events going on that night. Our publicity was good. The audience left satisfied. Jill A. reported that attendance for the Montpelier Section event was higher than other sections' Taylor events.

Jill reported the results of feedback solicited through the section's e-mail list. The most important aspect was having an articulate speaker with good photos, all done within a time limit. Topics could vary, although hiking was the most popular. A local speaker was popular, as was a topic that could be doable to some degree by the average attendee. Topic location was split between local and anywhere. Program timing preferences were consistent for a Friday night, with January as the most popular month, followed by February then March. Refreshments, including time to socialize was deemed very positive. Feedback on the specific shows over the last 4 years included more than one comment that the Ultra Swan show wasn't current enough; (Folks had seen prior TV coverage.) and that the Nepal show had a poor speaker who did not work to a time limit. One future topic suggestion is the Kilimanjaro climb by the local folks (Dot Helling et al).

It would be good to start planning for 2007 at the July executive committee meeting. Finding a "point person", setting preferred and alternate lecture dates, deciding on a venue and short listing some possible topics will be an excellent start. Complete publication details are required in September.

Reidun Nuquist mentioned that the Taylor Series is good for publicity for us but how much does the section make from it? It was reported that the section made \$100 in 2006.

Bill Clark enthusiastically thanked Jill Aspinall for her hard work putting the event together.

#### 8.) **Trail Work — Duncan Wilkie**

Chainsaw Training — Duncan reported that he is trying to organize Chainsaw training for section members. A discussion followed about different training opportunities at GMC headquarters. Several section members are interested in taking a training course. Different courses offer different levels of training. The section does not have an official rule about who can operate a chainsaw on work outings, but there is an informal suggestion that folks be trained. The courses are expensive. What kind of funds can the section commit to training? Is there a way to assess the skill of people? Can folks test out of certain levels? There is no assessment test or a possibility for folks to test out of training levels.

We could have a buddy system for training. The sense of the Executive Committee was that chainsaw training is very important for the section in order to avoid injury.

MOTION: The section authorized \$540 to train two people for two days for chainsaw course. They will be selected at the discretion of the section Trails and Shelters Coordinator but they must have a strong history of GMC trail work and must be committed to future GMC Montpelier Section trail work. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Deacon's Bench at Bamforth Ridge Shelter — A railing will be put up along the stairs along the deck of the shelter. Perhaps May 6 or 7. A hiker fell and hurt himself – he was impaired. He had cracked ribs and a broken leg and had to be carried out.

Sterling Pond Shelter Bench — this will be installed on the backside for a view of the pond. Andrew will install pegs in the shelter for hanging items.

#### 9.) **Job Descriptions**

Bill Clark gave a brief history of the desire for job descriptions reporting that the section didn't appear to have up-to-date descriptions for each officer. Jill Aspinall stressed that we aren't IBM but that we need some job descriptions and supporting documents. It is important that these things are accessible. We need a hand-off procedure for new officers.

Reidun Nuquist cautioned that being a volunteer is supposed to be fun. Don't make the descriptions into straight jackets. Let people enjoy what they are doing.

MOTION: Move that the Secretary of the section maintains the current job descriptions and distributes them upon request.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Deadline to submit job descriptions is March 13.

## 10.) **Executive Committee Reports**

Treasurer's Report — He sent it out. The proposed budget Actual relates to income/expense to date. The budget has an anticipated Actual.

A discussion of the printing costs of a section history being written by Reidun Nuquist began.

MOTION: To authorize the Treasurer to allocate a sum of money up to \$500 to print a section history.

Discussion: Reidun reported that she is halfway through writing the section history. She circulated a draft of the Table of Contents and first two chapters. The cost per booklet might be \$5 and she anticipates 50 booklets being plenty.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **C. New Business**

1.) **Long Trail News publication schedule** — the schedule is a little more flexible than we thought and it hasn't changed in some time. Bill Clark suggested that we need to communicate more regularly with the LTN Editor about the calendar and when and how we can submit out items.

2.) **Schedule for Upcoming Executive Committee meetings.** Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

July 12, 2006 – Dave Blumenthal's  
October 11, 2006 – at Ken or Duncan's.

## **Other Business**

Jill Aspinall mentioned that perhaps the postage item in the budget should be increased because postage is going up and because Paul, not living in Montpelier, is likely to have to mail significantly more items. It was suggested that the budget number go up to \$450.

MOTION: Raise the postage amount in the budget to \$450.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by

Sylvia Plumb, Secretary