

**Green Mountain Club
Montpelier Section Annual Meeting
April 8, 2006**

The Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club held its annual meeting April 8, 2006 at Bethany Church in Montpelier. There were ## members present.

Business Meeting

After a social hour and potluck dinner, Vice President Jill Aspinall called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. She chaired the meeting in the absence of President Bill Clark.

Jill thanked the section for a wonderful year celebrating the section's 50th Anniversary. She specifically thanked member of the 50th Anniversary Committee making special note of the committee's chair Priscilla Page. She also thanked Ken Hertz, Nancy Schulz for her 50/50 fundraiser, and Maura O'brien for the flowers on the table. JILL: Please help here. I seem to have missed something in my notes. Sorry!

Jill noted that it will be difficult for the section to do an encore to last year with its 50th anniversary celebration and the building of Sterling Pond Shelter. She is looking forward to a calmer year for the section.

She made a special recognition to Duncan Wilkie for his work on Sterling Pond Shelter, noting that Duncan wasn't present because he was hiking on the Appalachian Trail. She also thanked Eric Seidel, Bill Clark, and Ken Hertz for their dedication to building the shelter.

And she made special note of Nancy Schulz's 50/50 fundraising initiative.

Jill then turned the podium over to GMC Executive Director Ben Rose.

Ben thanked those present for being members of the GMC and the Montpelier Section. He made special note of the wonderful showing of Montpelier Section officers at the section leaders retreat the week prior.

Ben mentioned his speech from last year where he listed the top 10 pressures to the Long Trail and GMC. He noted the good news that Pressure Number One – financial stress was the one thing that the GMC can control. Looking toward its 100th anniversary in 2010, the GMC has launched a Second Century Campaign to raise ### million toward the future of the Long Trail and GMC.

He then presented a rapid, mini-Power Point presentation about the campaign. He mentioned that the Long Trail System is as much a part of the state infrastructure as I-89. GMC currently has 9,500 members and 3,000 report Long Trail end-to-enders. There are 800 volunteers and 14 sections. He thanked the section and said if each of you didn't show up for the trail the trail would disappear.

Ben summarized the main points of the campaign.

- 1.) Maintaining the Trail – keep the spirit of the trail alive. The trail is intergenerational. Shelter building is a way to bring new leadership in to the club.
- 2.) Land Protection — GMC has protected 24,500 acres. There are a few hot spots left but 85% of the system is protected.
- 3.) Infrastructure — Building a new headquarters had to be done in the context of a larger capital campaign that would ensure trail maintenance, finish the land protection campaign, ensure for stewardship.

The real amount needed is \$9.45 million but the campaign strives to raise the minimum amount needed: \$5.25 million. If we don't raise this then the status quo is hard to maintain

Ben then took questions from the audience.

Q.) The amount between \$5 million and \$9 million is huge.

A.) Based on studies, GMC can't raise the \$9 million. We set a target where we can succeed.

Q.) Where is the Campaign today?

A.) At \$2 million in pledges including \$600,000 in public fund. \$1.4 million is new. We need to get to \$3 million before we go public. There is lots of inspirational capacity within GMC. 100% of the board has given.

Q.) What about an endowment?

A.) There is an endowment and only 5% is drawn annually for general operating in order to preserve the capital. The board priority is for 24% of the campaign to be spent on the building, at least 1/2 million to the stewardship endowment, and \$2.3 million to the endowment.

Reidun Nuquist noted that every staff member has given to the campaign.

Jill Aspinall thanked Ben and then began the formal business meeting.

A.) Old Business

Acceptance of the minutes from the 2005 annual meeting. MOTION: Accept the minutes with the correction of the spellings of names. MOTION CARRIED.

B.) New Business

Section Reports

All reports are in the packet. Jill A. reported briefly on each one and took questions from the floor.

Treasurer's Report — Jill reported that the section is in good financial health. She mentioned that expenses were within \$4 of the budget and that income is significantly higher than the budget in large part due to the 50/50 fundraiser. She noted that 2006 will be a more routine year. MOTION CARRIED to approve the Treasurer's report.

Membership Report — Membership is staying steady. We had 54 new members and 51 dropped members. Reidun Nuquist asked what complimentary membership is. Jill Aspinall answered that these are folks that are members at large or members of another section that receive a copy of *Trail Talk*.

Trails and Shelters Report — This year was an active year with the construction of the Sterling Pond Shelter. We had many, many people working on that project.

This year will be quieter but we still need help. Some upcoming events are the May 2 Montpelier Parks trail work day; May 14 work trip on Bamforth Ridge; and the May 28 work day in Smugglers' Notch.

There are tasks for everyone of all levels. Dave Blumenthal mentioned that the storms in late fall created a lot of downed trees that will need to be cleared.

Outings Report — It was a phenomenal year. We offered 170 different outings with 30 leaders. This was due to the 50th anniversary and the 50/50. Next year the numbers will be down so don't despair! There are trips for everybody – the White Mountains, the Long Trail, paddles, brunches.

Director's Report — See written report

Web Master's Report — There were a couple questions from the floor. Michael Chernick asked if electronic submission of reports was now possible. The answer was yes and that mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the webmaster knows if this feature is not working properly. Ed Lowenton asked why the Web site is not searchable. This led to an action item to have the Executive Committee discuss this issue.

ACTION: The Executive Committee will discuss the possibility of a searchable Web site and report back at the 2007 annual meeting.

50th Anniversary — It was a phenomenal year. The 50th Anniversary Committee did a terrific job! Jill acknowledged the members of the committee: Chair Priscilla Page, Mary Garcia, Priscilla Daggett, Ken Hertz, Nancy Jordan, Andrew Nuquist, Reidun Nuquist, Nancy Schulz, Doris Washburn, and Thomas Weiss. There was applause for all. Jill noted the anniversary notebook created by Thomas Weiss and encouraged folks both to take a look at it and also to submit photos from the heritage hikes.

Bylaws Committee — Allen Jacobs took the podium and reported that the committee worked on a few housekeeping items. The bylaws amendments clean up language having to do with membership and the fiscal year. The motion as noted in the annual meeting packet carried with a friendly amendment to correct the language referring to "Montpelier Section Chair" since there is no chair. **MOTION PASSED.**

Recognition of Outgoing Officers

Jill Aspinall recognized the outgoing officers:

Fred Jordan—served three, one-year terms as alternate director.

Charlene Bohl — served as publicity coordinator for two years. She is running for section secretary.

Sylvia Plumb — served two, one-year terms as secretary and will not be seeking a third term

Bill Clark — served three, one-year terms as president

Jill Aspinall — served three, one-year terms as president

Jill thanked all outgoing officers for their work and dedication to the section.

Election of Officers

Jill Aspinall chaired the Nominating Committee, which consisted of John Buddington and Steve Lightholder. It was a challenging job but they are pleased with the slate of officers.

There is one change to the slate of officers as printed in *Trail Talk*. Charlene Bohl is up for secretary rather than Sylvia Plumb.

MOTION: To approve the slate as offered in the meeting packet.

President: Deb Kirchwey

Vice President: Paul DeLuca

Secretary: Charlene Bohl

Treasurer: Ken Hertz

Membership Coordinator: Mary Garcia

Director: Ann Burcroff

Alternate Director: Priscilla Daggett

MOTION CARRIED

Jill noted who is filling the three appointed positions on the Executive Committee. The Publicity Coordinator job is to be filled and to let the officers know of potential candidates. The Trail Talk editor is Nancy Jordan and the Web master is Dave Blumenthal.

Jill asked that section members fill out the questionnaire at the back of the meeting packet noting that the section needs the thoughts and opinions of the membership.

Reidun Nuquist noted that she is so impressed with the packet mentioning that it is well organized. She is not aware of any other section that does such a packet.

Jill Aspinall recognized Bill Clark who was the technical wizard behind the packet.

Awards for Outings and Trail Work

Jill mentioned that feedback from last year's meeting indicated that the section shouldn't give awards to the same people year after year. So this year the section was not recognizing the same person if they were the top person as last year.

(JILL: if you want to fill in the numbers let me know. I couldn't keep up with you talking. Sorry!)

Most Outings Led — Nancy Schulz was the top person but since she won last year, the recognition goes to Ed Lowenton and Paul DeLuca who tied.

Most Work Hikes Attended — Ken Hertz won last year. The runners up this year are Bill Clark and the third runner up is Eric Seidel

Most Trips Attended — Andrew Nuquist is the winner

Leader of Most Popular Outing — There were three outings with higher attendance than any other. Duncan Wilkie with the dedication of the Sterling Pond Shelter. And Doris Washburn with 28 people who attended her heritage Groton Pond canoe, hike, and picnic. And Mary Garcia with her heritage Sugar on Snow Party at Morse's with 27 attendees.

Other New Business

Jill called up Deb Kirchwey to make the official trade off of the coffee pot. Deb said hello and said she is very happy to be of service to the section. She looks forward to playing and working with everyone.

Nancy Schulz mentioned that she will be doing Green Up Day early. And asked folks to join her on a day in the coming week.

A motion was then made to adjourn the meeting. The MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted by

Sylvia Plumb, Secretary