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Subject: Draft minutes - Sept. 9 executive committee meeting
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Green Montain Club, Montpelier Section
Draft Minutes of the Executive Committee
September 9, 2008

The executive committee met at 7:15 pm at John Buddington's home.

Officers attending: John Buddington (president), Charlene Bohl (vice president), Steve Lightholder (treasurer), Thomas Weiss (secretary/LTN Reporter), Ken Hertz (trails & shelters coordinator), Fred Jordan (membership coordinator), Nancy Jordan (Trail Talk editor), Dave Blumenthal (webmaster), Ann Burcroff (GMC director), Priscilla Daggett (alternate GMC director).

Officers absent: Paul DeLuca (Publicity Co-ordinator).

Section members: Reidun Nuquist and Andrew Nuquist (co-chairs of the 2009 GMC annual meeting ad hoc committee).

OLD BUSINESS

1. The secretary read the minutes of the June 10 meeting. One correction was proposed (concerning Onion River Sports' club day). One clarification was proposed (noting that Andrew Nuquist's president's award was his second). Several typographical errors were corrected. Ken moved and Fred seconded that the minutes be accepted as amended. The executive committee approved the motion.

2. Current status reports

a. Ken reported that Bob Lincoln's photo appeared in Middlesex Newspaper, as do section events .

b. John reported that the GMC Snowshoe Festival will be Saturday, February 7, 2009.

c. John reported that the GMC has a laptop-projector unit which can be borrowed for slide shows of digital photographs. The Nuquists noted that they have two slide projectors that can be borrowed.

d. John reported that the National Life Insurance Co will host a Health and Fitness Fair on September 30, from 11 am to 2 pm.

3. Officers' reports

a. Planning Committee for the GMC 2009 Annual Meeting. Andrew and Reidun are co-chairs of this committee. They reported on planning to date. The annual meeting will be held at the new building now under construction at headquarters north of Waterbury Center. The meeting will be held Friday,

Saturday, and Sunday, May 29 - 31, 2009. The meeting has to be planned well enough by our December executive committee to meet the deadline for the spring issue of The Long Trail News.

The Nuquists have met informally with John (as section president) and with staff at the Club in Waterbury. There has been no official meeting of the committee yet. The first meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2008. Fred, Nancy, Priscilla, Ann, and John agreed to be on the committee.

We need a lot of volunteers to host a successful meeting. Typically 150 people attend the annual meeting. The Nuquists are looking for volunteers for the following and are willing to draft people:

- Lodging - Ann Burcroff has volunteered to help organize lodging. One idea she has is to get private homes to offer a bed and breakfast arrangement where the host provides the bed and breakfast and the club gets the fee paid by the lodger.

- Outings (hikes and other)

- Entertainment:

 - Friday evening - possibly a talk and tour of the new building

 - Saturday after-dinner speaker - possibly Dot Helling on the Blue Planet Run

- Meals (the Nuquists are working on finding a caterer)

- Greeters

- Registrators

- Parking lot attendants

- Display on the Montpelier section

The club pays expenses and deposits for the meeting.

b. Trails and Shelters Committee. Ken reported that he, John, Paul, and Duncan Wilkie are on the committee.

- The annual porcupine chew for club volunteers will be held at Londonderry, September 27. The section will receive recognition for more than 100 hours of volunteer activity in the field.

- Puncheon is needed near both shelters. Jessica Richardson (Vt. Forests, Parks, and Recreation) recommends work near Bamforth Ridge shelter and on the Long Trail above the shelter.

- Section work hikes will be October 11 and 25.

- The work to demolish Watson Camp will be a small group controlled by staff from the club.

c 1. Membership co-ordinator's report. Fred Jordan summarized the membership report, which is minimal change from the previous reporting period.

c 2. The secretary handed out a list of policies that previous executive committees had adopted and asked if the committee wanted to have this as a formal document. Policies are decisions that the committee made to guide their decisions on certain issues. Policies are not binding in the way that by-laws are. Policies do not include information in either the by-laws or the job descriptions. The intent of the list of policies is to have them available in one place for convenient reference. There were five policies on the list that were found through a review of minutes beginning with the meeting of March 6, 2006. Dave moved and Fred seconded that the secretary create and maintain a policies document to record decisions of the executive committee as appropriate for this document, not including by-laws or job descriptions. The executive committee approved the motion on a voice vote. (NOTE: The list of policies presented at the meeting is at the end of these minutes.)

c 3. Treasurer's report. Steve Lightholder presented the treasurer's report. For the first six months, we had income of \$2,455.08 and expenses of \$1,724.65 for a net increase in our accounts of \$743.08. Dave Blumenthal moved to approve the secretary's report as presented. The executive committee approved the report as presented.

d. Plans for the section's cash balance. This is a continuation of an issue raised at our annual meeting and begun at the June 10 meeting of the executive committee. The section has a cash balance as of September 1 of \$12,476.42. The budget for the fiscal year (April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009) is \$3,900.00 for section expenses plus two donations totaling \$1,000.00. Now our income seems to balance our expenses on an annual basis. The committee had a lengthy discussion on this issue.

Steve Lightholder surveyed the sections as he had been requested to do at the June meeting. He received responses from 7 of 9 sections. Most sections keep small balances. Generally, the sections spend any large amounts on their own trails and shelters or as donations to the building fund. The Killington section is unusual in that it has an endowed fund.

The section has a number of life members who do not pay dues, so their share of expenses needs to come from the initial 25% received by the section from their life membership. The section also has several honorary life members for whom the section received no initial amount.

Our annual budget is about \$3500; we seem to be living within that. Income from dues tends to arrive early in our year and expenses tend to be paid later in the year. Some committee opposed caps on the budget and the balance; others opposed creating pigeonholes.

A motion was made that we maintain twice our annual budget as a reserve plus \$250 for each life member and that we give the rest to headquarters. During the discussion the committee realized that the executive committee lacks authority to make such a large donation outside the budget approved at the section's annual meeting. The motion was withdrawn and no vote was taken.

A motion was made and seconded that for our 2009 - 2010 budget the executive committee present a budget that at the end of the year will have a reserve equal to one year's expenses plus an amount for life members. Additional money will be donated to the Green Mountain Club. The vote on this motion failed on a tie vote of 3 - 3.

There was no resolution on this item and the committee proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Hosting a Taylor series lecture. This was raised at the June meeting and the committee then postponed discussion until this meeting. The committee decided to sponsor a lecture on January 9 or 23, 2009; both dates are Fridays. Dave volunteered to make posters for the lecture. The committee decided to explore three of the potential speakers further. Ken agreed to determine prices for the speakers and halls and then to conduct a vote by e-mail and telephone before the next meeting of the executive committee. Juliet on the Club's staff has information on fees and other requirements for each speaker. Someone suggested that the hall be paid in advance to avoid increases in price or unexpected add-ons. The speakers that the committee asked Ken to explore further were:

- Phil Brown, editor of the Adirondack Explorer, a presentation on the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area in Montana.
- Deborah Lewis can present a range of adventure slides including Vermont, Romania, the Tour du Mont Blanc, Austria/Bavaria hiking and others. If she is our choice, Ann volunteered to be her hostess.
- Juanita Burch-Clay, of Barre is happy to present on the flora, fauna, culture and history of Ecuador, where she has lived for the past 3 years.

The committee decided not to consider the following four speakers.

- Dot Helling, of Montpelier, on the Run for Blue Water. The committee preferred having her for the speaker at the club's annual meeting in May.
- Pete Lane, of MA, has 'Tales from the Trail' and 'Over the Handlebars and across the Country'.
- Jeff Lougee, of the Nature Conservancy in No. Conway, NH could present on a trip to Costa Rica in 2006 with a group of natural resource professionals from NH.

- Chris Abair from Colchester sent descriptions of his Vermont Story Telling.

2. Ken Hertz: Shall the section reimburse adopter expenses, for trails and shelters maintained by the section? Adopters had been asked and indicated that they do not expect to incur re-imbursable expenses. The club does not re-imburse adopter's expenses and expects adopters to pay their expenses. In ts case, Ken paid out of his own pocket The committee considered no motion and took no action on this issue.

3. Nancy Jordan: Should we investigate the possibility of creating a pdf ('portable document format') version of Trail Talk for distribution via email and make it available on the website? The executive committee discussed this. It would take additional work on Nancy's part to convert the file used for printing Trail Talk into a .pdf file. The committee considered no motion and took no action on this issue.

4. David announced that he and Lexi will have the Young Adventurer's Club display at Onion River Sports' grand opening of its expanded store on October 11. A portion of the store will be dedicated to gear for younger children.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the executive meeting will be December, 2, Tuesday, at Ken Hertz's

Other meetings will be:

December 10, Wednesday, planning meeting at Steve Lightholder's

March 9, Tuesday, executive meeting, location to be determined

March 17, Wednesday, planning meeting, location to be determined

ADJOURNMENT. A motion was made to adjourn and was approved by the executive committee. The meeting was adjourned about 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Weiss, secretary

November 14, 2008

Montpelier Section Policies

This compilation of section policies was begun on September 7, 2008. The policies were obtained from the minutes of the meetings of the executive committee beginning with the March 6, 2006 meeting.

March 6, 2006 - The secretary of the section maintains the current job descriptions and distributes them upon request.

July 12, 2006 - We do not want the main pages of our website to be searchable, but are generally in favor of having one searchable page that will lead to an events page.

October 11, 2006 - Trip leaders are allowed to publicize their own trips.

January 17, 2007 - If an outing is being offered by an individual who is a GMC member - and a member of another group - it is a "GMC Event" and can be listed in our calendar, even if it is being promoted by another group.

June 10, 2008 - The president may approve individual expenditures up to \$100. Such expenditures will appear on the treasurer's report at the next annual meeting.