

GMC Montpelier Section Annual Meeting
April 9, 2010
(revised April 18, 2010)

The Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club held its annual meeting April 9, 2010 at the T. W. Wood Art Gallery in Montpelier. Approximately 36 members and guests were present. After a social hour and potluck dinner, President John Buddington called the meeting to order at 7:15 P.M.

I. Old Business

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2009 annual meeting. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with by consensus. MOTION: Accept the minutes as written. MOTION CARRIED on a voice vote.

2. Announcements

A. John Buddington announced that he will be leading a road walk Saturday, April 10 at 1:00 P.M., meeting at the Rumney School in Middlesex.

B. Reidun Nuquist announced that the section's annual volunteer work day in the Montpelier parks is scheduled for April 12 at 9:00 A.M., meeting at the swimming pool in Montpelier. The parks department will provide tools. Advance registration is requested.

C. Thomas Weiss discussed the section's plans to participate in Montpelier's July 3rd parade in honor of the Green Mountain Club's centennial. It will be similar to our previous appearance five years ago for the Montpelier Section's 50th anniversary. There is a signup sheet for those willing to participate. We would like to have 40 people attend. Reidun Nuquist added that staff and directors of the Green Mountain Club have been invited to participate.

D. John Buddington announced that members of the entire Green Mountain Club had reported 23,400 volunteer hours last year.

E. Dave Hardy, director of field operations for the GMC, thanked the Montpelier Section for our share of those volunteer hours and for maintaining our two stretches of the Long Trail. Dave also reported on planned activities for the upcoming field season: Birch Glen Camp, Little Rock Pond Shelter, tower on Stratton Mountain, bridges over Big Branch and Lake Brook (on the Old Job trail), roofs on Jay camp and David Logan Shelter. The Long Trail temporarily will be relocated for 3½ months for the work at the suspension bridge over the Big Branch. The relocation will add three miles to the Long Trail with seven miles on roads. Other work will be placing a new sign at the Canadian border; a slow dismantling of Watson Camp, dealing with a mud hole on the access trail to the Bamforth Ridge shelter, and trying to determine what to do with Cooper Lodge, which is now eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

F. Dave Hardy also announced upcoming activities to celebrate the centennial:

- May 22 - annual meeting at club headquarters outside Waterbury Center
- July 16 - barn dance in South Londonderry
- July 17 - August 15 - Long Trail relay hike
- Sept. - Porcupine Chew at GMC Visitor Ctr.

G. Dave Hardy reported that an agreement has been signed with the landowner on the left bank of the proposed Winooski River crossing. The site is two miles westerly of the foot of the Long Trail at Bamforth Ridge. The Town of Bolton owns the land on the right bank. The club is trying to negotiate an at-grade crossing of the New England Central Railroad, which is unfavorable to the railroad.

H. Doris Washburn reported that Marion Gorham is failing in health. Marion is a formerly active section member who has been section president and has held almost every other section office as well. The section asked Doris to send a card to Marion on behalf of the section.

I. Reidun Nuquist announced a celebration of the Green Mountain Club at Bailey Howe Library at the University of Vermont on April 22 at 7:00 P.M.

3. Approval of the reports of the Section officers. All reports, except the webmaster's report and the director's report, are attached to the agenda.

A. President's report by president John Buddington. John pointed out two strengths of the section: we have many people willing to serve as section officers and that we make effective use of newspapers and the internet site to promote our activities.

B. Treasurer's report by treasurer Steve Lightholder. The report is for the year April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2010. Ken Hertz noted that we budget money every year for safety training and we spend very little of that. Some section members thought that the balance is too much and we should reduce it. Ken

Hertz reported the club is taking a new attitude toward section funds: section funds, although administered by the sections, actually belong to the Club as a whole.

The cost of a faster, intensive dismantling of Watson Camp was discussed with the thought of perhaps using some section funds to speed the removal of Watson Camp, the remains of which are within the section's area of maintenance.

Dave Hardy reported that he had requested a grant of \$24,000 for three weeks of work from the Youth Conservation Corps, although he has little experience on which to estimate the effort and cost to finish the dismantling of the camp.

C. Trails & Shelters report by committee chair Ken Hertz, reported that 100' of the access trail to the Bamforth Ridge Shelter is muddy and needs work. There is no rock in the area to bring in and we have used all of the materials brought in when the shelter was built. Native materials for puncheon last only 8-10 years. The next helicopter work in the area will be in 2011. Adding a materials drop at Bamforth Ridge will turn the drop into a three-point drop (Glen Ellen, Montclair Glen, and Bamforth Ridge), complicating logistics.

D. Membership report by coordinator Fred Jordan. One member questioned the infinite increase in the Guardian level of membership from 2008 to 2009. This was caused by a change from no member at that level to one member at that level.

E. Publicity report by coordinator Kevin Ryan. There were no questions.

F. Webmaster's report by webmaster Dave Blumenthal. Dave Blumenthal reported that the site is doing fine 99% of the time and is fickle the remaining 1% of the time. A big change in the site has been the on-line event calendar which allows potential leaders to post an event and the vice-president to coordinate the outing schedule.

G. GMC Board of Directors report by alternate director Priscilla Daggett. There is lots of activity around the centennial. The birthday party on March 11 was successful. The Vermont General Assembly, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate passed resolutions honoring the centennial of the Green Mountain Club. In addition to the activities that Dave Hardy mentioned, the Killington Section will sponsor a fund-raising dinner at the Inn at the Long Trail on June 5. In response to a question, Dave Blumenthal reported that the Appalachian Trail Conference held last year at Castleton State College was a successful generator of good-will and publicity for the Green Mountain Club and the Long Trail and that it was financially successful.

H. Outings by vice president Charlene Bohl. Charlene provided gifts to the leaders of the most popular outings: the Nuquists for hikes at Morse Farm and around Sodom Pond; George Longenecker and Cynthia Martin's ski at Beaver Brook, and John Buddington's circumnavigation of Dumpling Hill. Charlene noted that changes to the on-line events calendar and how it is used are likely as we gain more experience with it.

Charlene also gave a thank you gift to John Buddington for his work on the on-line calendar and thank you gifts to outgoing section officers: (Steve Lightholder, Fred Jordan, Ken Hertz, and Thomas Weiss)

MOTION: To accept all reports as presented. MOTION CARRIED on a voice vote.

4. Questions and comments from the membership

Andrew Nuquist suggested that if the section makes its proposed donation to the Club before the cut-off date in April, the section could become a charter member of the Ridgeline Society. [Secretary's note: see page 14 of Winter 2009 *Long Trail News* for information on the Ridgeline Society.]

II. New Business

1. Approval of the **Proposed Budget** for the year April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011. The proposed budget is attached to the agenda.

MOTION: Allow the executive committee to donate up to \$3,000 to the Green Mountain Club for dismantling Watson Camp. In response to questions, Dave Hardy indicated this amount will help speed dismantling. Because he has little experience with dismantling such a structure, he could not say how much faster dismantling might be with the use of this additional \$3,000 than with his slow working on it as time and volunteers allow. MOTION CARRIED on a non-unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: Increase the proposed donation to the main Club by \$900 to a total of \$2,000. MOTION CARRIED on a voice vote with some dissent.

MOTION: To approve the proposed budget as amended. MOTION CARRIED on a non-unanimous voice vote.

Amended items are listed below; other items were accepted as proposed:

Donation to Main Club	\$2,000
Total Expenses	\$4,900
Allowance for Watson Camp	\$3,000
Total Expenses with Allowance	\$7,900

2. **Elections.** Andrew Nuquist reported the proposed slate of officers on behalf of the Nominating Committee, composed of Ken Hertz, Andrew Nuquist, and Robert Lorenz. The committee proposed the following slate of officers:

For terms of one year:

President: John Buddington
Vice-President: Charlene Bohl
Treasurer: Robert Lorenz
Secretary: Kathy Gohl
Trails & Shelters Coordinator: Eric Seidel
Membership Coordinator: Lexi Shear

For terms of three years: No nominations were presented. [Secretary's note: the director and the alternate director were elected in 2009 and their terms continue until the section's annual meeting in 2012.]

There were no additional nominations from the floor. MOTION: Direct the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate of officers nominated by the nominating committee. MOTION CARRIED on a voice vote.

John Buddington thanked outgoing officers for their service to the section.

3. **Other new business**

Esther Farnsworth requested, and the section gave, a round of applause to Nancy Jordan in recognition of her work on *Trail Talk*.

Reidun Nuquist misses the president's enameled coffee pot used to call the annual meeting to order, to adjourn it, and requested that the tradition be resumed with next year's annual meeting.

III. **Adjournment**

MOTION: To adjourn. MOTION CARRIED.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M. and was followed by a slide lecture by Eric Scharnberg on the Cross Vermont Trail.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Weiss, Secretary