

# CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB (CMC)

## Minutes of Council Meeting

May 2, 2016

**Council Officers:** President, Barbara Morgan; Vice President, Randy Fluharty; Treasurer, Ann Hendrickson; Secretary, Paula Massey; Immediate Past President, Lenny Bernstein; Councilor of Communication, Kathy Kyle; Councilor of Conservation, Ruth Hartzler; Councilor Education/Outreach, Kay Shurtleff; Councilor for Hiking, Brenda Worley; Councilor for Membership, Lee Silver; Councilor for Technology, Marcia Bromberg; Councilor for Trail Maintenance, Pete Peterson; Councilor-at-Large, Steve Pierce; Councilor-at-Large, Tom Weaver

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Morgan at 6 pm with the following in attendance: Ann, Randy, Lenny, Kathy, Kay, Brenda, Marcia, Lee, Pete, Tom, and Paula. Not attending were Steve and Ruth. Guests: Bill Hendrickson and Ed Paukovits.

**Approval of the Minutes** A motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 meeting was passed.

**Treasurer's Report** Ann presented the Comparative Statement of Activities for the period of 01/01/2016 thru 04/30/2016. General discussion regarding travel expenses with request that reimbursement for mileage for non-maintenance line item be made on a quarterly, rather than monthly, basis (unless for out of state conferences with hotel expenses) to consolidate checks. Motion made by Pete and passed. Marcia and Barbara agreed to review and re-work current mileage request policy for clarification of what is deemed reimbursable. Ann expressed concern that in some areas, the amount budgeted for the year has already been spent or a large proportion has been spent to date. She also noted that in the future, it would be helpful to have a "miscellaneous" line item to fund un-anticipated but necessary expenses. Barbara opened the floor to a general discussion of viewpoints of whether the annual budget is a plan to carry out the mission of the organization or a contract made by Council to the membership. An informal vote was taken on this and only one member of council felt it was a contract. Also, in the event that income is less than expenditures, when and how is it appropriate to tap some of the club's reserves? It was noted that in 2003, the minutes stated that the council agreed to keep a minimum of one year's operating expenses in reserves. Currently the club holds more than this amount. No decision was made, and discussion will continue as needed.

### Reports, Discussion, and Updates

CMC's Awards and Recognition - Lenny reported on recent selection of the first recipient of Award of Achievement that was awarded to Steve Pierce at the CMC Spring Social. A proposed revision to Article VI will be disseminated by e-mail or at August meeting relative to the Awards Committee.

Status of Operating Manual – Lenny reported that he, Marcia, and Steve are working on the manual, currently focusing on the table of content and format will be a series of topics with web links to each. Some content has already been written.

Status of Walt Weber's MST Book - Lenny reported that the changes to reflect CMC have been made and accepted; is now in the pre-media phase with \$500 for books over budget. Buck Springs Lodge Information Signs – Lenny says that Walt and Mark Wood are working on this.

Progress on Let's Hike Revisions – Barbara reported on behalf of Steve a correction to the February 22, 2016 Minutes: The \$130 is the cost for 1,000 brochures, not 100 brochures.

100 Favorite Trails Project – Barbara reported for Steve that in January, the project was turned over to the appropriate parties and we are waiting on their response.

ATC SORO Meeting, Training Update – Tom reported that training will be conducted May 21-22 on grip hoist and rigging at Oteen Maintenance Center with stump removal at Rattlesnake Lodge; a dozen maintainers registered. There is no charge to participants and lodging is being taken care of privately, so there is no cost to the club for this training. The LL Beam stonework training grant was not approved since it would not directly support the AT; further funding sources being explored. ATC Spring Southern Regional Meeting was attended by Tom; volunteer leadership training of club leaders will be held August 26-28 with Barbara and Randy planning to attend (registration and expenses paid by ATC). Update on National Park Service offering passes for volunteer hours in excess of 250; request that the Steward Council Leave No Trace video be linked to website. Tom participates on the quarterly calls with ATC Leadership (Barbara and Randy were unable to participate in the most recent call). Special Announcement: Tom has been appointed by the Governor to serve as the Western Regional representative to the NC Trails Committee. There are seven members on this committee who advise the State Trails Program on funding recommendations for the Recreational Trails Program Grants (RTP) and Adopt-a-Trail Grants. They oversee the disbursement of funds collected from fuel tax revenue (\$1.6 million annually) to maintain trails; grants range \$10,000 to \$100,000. Entire Council congratulated Tom with request that this be publicized to CMC members by Facebook and the CMC website.

Annual Dinner Planning Update – Randy reported that the dinner will be held November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Chariot with Kevin Adams waterfalls presentation. At the August meeting, the guest list will be firmed up and the cost of the dinner voted upon.

Other – Barbara reported that the Appalachian Mountain Club is interested in producing a new edition of Allan deHart's *NC Hiking Trails*. They asked if CMC felt this was a valuable effort and would like CMC to consider reviewing revised content and assist in promoting/publicizing the book; no financial support being requested. Council agreed that the book is valuable to club members and area public and to support the book by promoting and publicizing it once the new edition is produced. The Spring Social was a success (unofficial figures show a financial break-even point), with special thanks to be given to Les and Catherine Love and also Marcia, Bobbi, and Kathy, and especially Danny Bernstein for presenting an excellent program about our national parks in the south. The four special guests, all superintendents or high National Park employees, really added to the program. The Leave No Trace request for \$75 for

LNT Week materials will be paid out Kay's Education and Outreach budget, not to exceed \$75. A movie featuring the AT (The Long Start to the Journey) will be shown at the ACT on May 7<sup>th</sup> with \$1 per ticket going to a CMC project: Youth Partner Challenge (YPC) and Leave No Trace.

Barbara reported that Kathy had alerted her that DuPont Forest was proposing user fees, such as \$12 per car. At this point, DuPont has halted discussion, but if resumed, the Council may wish to draft a statement concerning its viewpoint on this.

### **Committee Reports and Discussion of Issues**

Education – Kay reported that nine children and five adults participated in the YPC trip to the Cradle of Forestry; the Frying Pan Fire Tower will be the next scheduled hike on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Additional materials promoting the YPC may be made possible as a result of the donation from the AT movie ticket proceeds.

Conservation – Barbara, on behalf of Ruth, reviewed the 5-2-16 Conservation Report that was submitted. The comprehensiveness and clarity of the summary report was appreciated.

Communications – Kathy reported that changing from “Constant Contact” to “Mail Chimp” newsletter service would result in possibly losing the archives, so this change needs to wait until the issue is resolved; Rocco will be consulted regarding this archive issue. Press releases will be generated for National Trails Day with ribbon cutting at Waterrock Knob on June 4 celebrating the new MST section. Tom reported that the National Trail Days website will link local activities if submitted; he will look into this. Press releases will be generated for the YPC.

Technology – Last month Marcia had submitted three templates for revisions to the “look” of the home page of the website, providing Council with opportunity to provide input on their preferences. The options varied in terms of the background color and headers. Marcia reported that the majority of the Council voted for option #3 (the dark background that framed each header with white), Additional website changes include plans to input additional reports, like finance and minutes. General discussion on whether the time is near to hire additional technology help to redesign the member and maintenance databases. Tim Carrigan only has limited time to deal with these difficult issues, and he maintains both the member and maintenance databases, which he has graciously done at no cost.

Membership – Lee reported that overall total membership remaining steady with 82 new memberships year to date. Currently there are 509 individual memberships, 239 families, 26 lifetime, for a total of 774 memberships (approximately 1000 members). She reminded Council that there are three e-mail reminders sent to late/non-renewing members.

Maintenance – Pete reported that fire in Hot Springs temporarily closed the AT and that CMC was asked to inspect the trail if necessary. He especially thanked club member Jack Dalton of Hot Springs for his help to the ATC regarding communication with hikers in the area of the fire. The re-location of part of the Art Loeb Trail has begun, but due to extent of work required it will take longer than expected. May 24<sup>th</sup> is the date of the Crew Leaders' meeting and Council members are welcome to attend. Pete has served as the unofficial CMC representative of the new Pisgah Conservancy since the organizational

meetings, and now it is an official entity. Motion – It was moved that Pete be officially designated as CMC representative now that the Pisgah Conservancy is now publically being launched. Passed. The next quarterly Saturday work day will be May 7<sup>th</sup> in the Wolf Laurel area.

Hiking – Brenda reported that 58 participants attended the hike leader dinner at a cost of \$2,800. The CMC Meetup site has been renewed for another 6 months and at the end of this time, an analysis of the cost effectiveness, number of non-CMC members, and average number on hike will be conducted. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter hiking schedule is still being developed and some Wednesday all-day and Sunday half-day leaders are still needed. The first joint ATC/CMC Invasive Garlic Mustard pull was conducted on April 5<sup>th</sup> at Lemon Gap with 50 pounds collected; the second pull is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup> at Bluff Mountain.

General Discussion – It was suggested that a budget planning meeting be held prior to the annual meeting to address budget planning in general and specific upcoming plans for the next year that have fiscal impact. It was recommended by Pete that two long time trail maintainers, George Banta and Bill Falander, be given recognition for their voluntary financial contribution of funds to purchase a new generator for use by trail maintainers.

The next Council meeting will be on Monday, August 1 at the same time and location.

Meeting Adjourned by 8:55 pm

Minutes Prepared by Paula Massey 5/16