

Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) 2019 Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Earthfare, 1856 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803

Present:

President: Randy Fluharty

Vice-President: Debby Jones

Secretary: Kathy McAuley

Treasurer: George Bauernfeind

Immediate Past President: Barbara Morgan

Councilor for Communication: Stuart English

Councilor for Conservation: Mike Fisher (on phone)

Councilor for Education and Community Outreach: Jan Onan

Councilor for Hiking: Brenda Worley

Councilor for Trail Maintenance: Ron Navik

Councilor for Technology: Judy Magura

Councilor at Large: Hugh Hensleigh

Councilor at Large: Chris Koebelin

Councilor for Membership: Lynn Saul

Absent: none

Approval of Minutes – Randy opened the meeting with a request for approval of the February 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was made by Ron, seconded by George, and approved by the Council.

Endowment Funds – Skip Sheldon (Lifetime Member Award recipient) presented information on the pros / cons of endowment funds for informational purposes for the Council. Skip explained that endowments provide an opportunity to memorialize and honor individuals for varying amounts. Endowments are structured to use the interest only or invest the interest for additional potential gains. CMC currently identifies gifts in the CMC budget and those funds are readily accessible when needed. Endowment funds would require a separate entity to oversee it.

Action Item: The Council will give consideration to the idea of endowment funds for CMC.

Treasurer's Report – George – CMC received a \$2,500 tag grant award from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. Ron also received grant funding from the L.L. Bean / Appalachian Trail Conservancy grant. Trails has used \$3,000 of endowments this year, specifically identified for trail maintenance.

Waiver Document – Chris, Barbara – A small committee developed draft waivers for CMC hikes, trail work and youth events. The youth events need a waiver to address individuals other than parents, bringing children to events. CMC has engaged a lawyer,

David English of Roberts and Stevens, P.A., to review the draft documents. CMC's goal is to develop documents that are consistent with North Carolina law and can be in use for a lengthy period. David provided a draft to CMC, and the committee will work to finalize the document(s) for use.

Action Item: The committee plans to have a document for approval at the next Council meeting.

On-line Store – The Council has previously discussed an On-Line store. There is a potential for sales of t-shirts, patches and books. Our website has the ability to take credit cards, but shipping of items would need to be resolved.

Action Item: George and Judy will develop a plan to present to Council.

Let's Go Production – Stuart – CMC has retained the formatter for the online publication of Let's Go. Stuart requested an increase in her payment from \$25 per quarter to \$50 per quarter. The motion was made by Barbara and seconded by Debby, and approved by the Council.

Annual Dinner – Debby – The date for the next annual dinner is October 26th, 2019 at the Biltmore Village Double Tree for \$33.00 per person. The guest speaker will be Jay Erskine Leutze who is an environmental activist who authored Stand Up That Mountain: The Battle to Save One Small Community in the Wilderness along the Appalachian Trail. Mr. Leutze also worked with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy on the Rocky Fork State Park acquisition. Judy made the motion to approve the dinner location, cost and speaker. Jan seconded the motion and it was approved by Council.

Pathways to Parks – Randy – There was discussion on increasing diversity within CMC, including an event to get individuals of color into the wilderness. Tanya Shahid-Cummings heads the Pathways to Parks, which encourage black and brown people to take advantage of parks, trails, and nature preserves through activities such as hiking. Randy also met with The Boy Scouts of America about how they can hike/work with us.

Action Item: Randy to identify an event for Pathways to Parks participation, such as hiking event or trail maintenance event. Max Patch is a potential option.

Communication – Stuart – See Let's Go Production item.

Membership – Lynn – 74 new members in 2019, with total membership now over 1000. Lynn met with Tim regarding CMC technical system capabilities.

Trail Maintenance – Ron – Trails applied for several Appalachian Trail Tag grants this year. CMC did receive \$2500 for a tool trailer to take to Max Patch, providing on-site tools to trail maintainers. The LL Bean grant provided \$1,247 for trailer signage. The trailer must be registered with an Appalachian Trail plate. The LL Bean grant also provided \$1,000 for the sign at Max Patch. The two panel kiosk has already been replaced with a three panel kiosk, however, there are some necessary changes to the content. CMC will also add metal signage at trail junctions along the Max Patch loop.

On June 1, 2019, CMC will have another Max Patch trail maintenance event. CMC is anticipating 100 volunteers, which is the maximum allowed. A children's hike will also occur on that day, at Max Patch.

The United States Forest Service and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy meetings with CMC are continuing.

The Appalachian Trail spring clean-up is complete, which is important prior to the Appalachian Trail hikers beginning to go north. CMC now has a trail maintenance crew specific to the Art Loeb Trail and an overnight crew on the Appalachian Trail, to cover areas that are a long hike in. The Wilderness Response Crew Leader will gather other trail maintainers to assist with wilderness trails.

CMC hosted Wake Forest University students on a trail maintenance day. On Pisgah Pride Day, CMC managed volunteer trail crews for 3 projects including: Mount Pisgah trail, John's Rock bridges, and the Graveyard Fields trail signage.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has asked that CMC develop a working agreement as to the CMC upcoming trail maintenance workload.

Randy will be providing a one day course at Osher Life Long Learning Institute on how the Appalachian Trail is maintained.

Action Item: Hugh to draft a document for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to show CMC trail maintenance upcoming workload, including organizational schedule and work schedules.

Education – Jan – The next committee meeting is May 6, 2019. The Map and Navigational class taught by Bill Sanderson was successful. The class included 2 hours of classroom instruction at R.E.I. and a field session on a separate day. Proposed upcoming classes include: Why Knot? (tying knots class) to be held at Sierra Nevada Brewery, an orientation course by the University of North Carolina Orienteering Club, and a GPS on smartphone class. The committee is currently developing a Hike Leaders Challenge. There will be 2 theme hikes developed for inclusion in the schedule. The next Leave No Trace hike is scheduled for Saturday May 18, 2019.

The Town of Saluda has developed a Youth Partnership Challenge, based on CMC's Youth Partnership Challenge.

CMC has assistance from an intern, who developed a flyer for the Youth Partnership Challenge.

The next speaker series will be held May 15, 2019 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Resolve, 821 Riverside Drive. The speaker will be Warren Doyle who has hiked the Appalachian Trail 18 times.

Action Item: Jan to check if intern can assist Conservation with developing a flyer.

Hiking – Brenda and the schedulers are working on the 3rd quarter schedule. Beginning April 30, 2019, the schedule will include both moderate and strenuous hikes, to provide more opportunities for members to participate in hiking events.

Conservation – Mike – The revised Forest Service Management Plan is now expected to be released late summer. CMC will provide a communication to members regarding the revised plan with a link to additional information, to encourage CMC member comments. An event may be planned for CMC member comments compilation.

Action Item: Stu and Tom Weaver to provide National Forest hiking and trail maintenance pictures (electronic files only) for publication in association with the upcoming draft plan. Mike will work with Judy to develop an electronic communication to CMC members on this draft plan and any associated event(s).

Technology – Judy – There were no membership renewals in December; however, there is now a rush of renewals and new memberships. The IT vendor, Stratus, was reviewed for a potential online store, however, fulfillment continues to be a challenge.

Randy closed the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 at 6:00 PM, Earthfare, 1856 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville.

Submitted by Kathy McAuley 5/9/19.