

CMC Council Meeting

5-1-2014

Earthfare South, 1856 Hendersonville Rd. Asheville, NC 28803

Council Members Present: Lenny Bernstein, Marcia Bromberg, Danny Bernstein, Barbara Morgan, Lee Silver, Brenda Worley, Pete Petersen, Tish Desjardins, Sawako Jager, Ann Hendrickson, Stuart English

Council Members Absent: Jim Ariail, Kay Shurtleff

Guests: Gale O'Neal

Lenny called the meeting to order and the minutes from the February meeting were accepted.

Treasurers Report In Jim's absence, Ann gave the report. The donations received from the Pete A. Petersen fund are over \$1000 now. Grateful Steps has been sending royalties for the MST book. \$2680 has been received from an ATC grant that will be used to buy maintenance tools.

The Challenge Committee is over budget due to the costs of patches.

Appointments Lenny announced that Tom Weaver will take over Howard McDonald's role as Trail Facilities Manager.

The MST is divided for maintenance organization into 5 sections with a different individual reporting for each one. Allen DeHart, FMST Trails Specialist, wants only one person to report to the FMST. Now it will be the responsibility of the Chair of the Maintenance Committee- Pete Petersen.

Friends of the MST

Danny reported that FMST has joined smile.amazon.com. and will receive 0.5% of the cost of purchases which identify it as the recipient. If you shop at Amazon, go to SMILE.AMAZON.COM select FMST as your preferred organization. Then bookmark that page for shopping on Amazon. May is MST month. As part of the celebration FMST is holding a raffle to raise funds. Thank you to all those who bought a ticket (or \$5).

ATC Update Lenny

Lenny, Jim Reel, and Becky Smucker attended the two day Southern Partnership Meeting that included discussion of the ATC's draft Strategic Plans. The plan is not a big change in the way things are done, but did outline goals for staff, fundraising, and to concentrate more on diversity and outreach with a goal of reaching younger people.

The AT Foundation document is available on the website. Comments are due at the end of the month.

The Volunteer Leadership meets in August. Barbara will go and possibly a second person. The club will pay the expenses of the second person. (about \$500)

Assessment of the Spring Social Marcia

Marcia reported that the sale of adult beverages was successful and this was the first time that the Social had been a financial success. \$115 profit was made on beverages. Lenny stated that the program was successful with many informative points made about Wilderness preservation and maintenance by Jill Gottesman and Becky Smucker. Danny added that 24 people went on the two hikes offered even though it rained.

Requests for Speakers/Participants/Service Projects Lenny

Lenny brought up the requests the club gets for speakers and participants at various community functions. "Miles for Science" is coming up June 15-July 27 and run out of Montreat College. CMC people could participate at orientation on Saturday afternoon. Someone would need to talk 15-30 minutes about Trail Maintenance and Building so high school children would understand.

Should we set up an "Outreach" person? Marcia said that it would be more of a service to the community than outreach (for us). Danny proposed that we lead hikes rather than run a table.

Lenny would like to appoint an Outreach Coordinator.

Pete mentioned the National Park Services Centennial in 2016. Also, there are requests from groups that want to go out with trail crews. Pete pointed out that we should refer these people to Tennessee Eastman club because they have been successful with this.

Challenge Committee Sawako Jager

Sawako Jager said that the people that run the current Challenge programs: Waterfalls-Jack Fitzgerald, Pisgah 400-Dave Wetmore, SB6K-Peter Barr, and Fire towers-Peter Barr will remain in place. She will send out the patches once confirmation is made. Sawako proposed a new challenge including all the trails that CMC maintains (425 miles?). Ann said that this would be too complicated and difficult. Lenny said that the committee needed to decide what is feasible in creating a challenge. Marcia said the new challenge should be just the AT and MST that we maintain and that would be one challenge with no time limit. This has already been approved.

Communication Danny

Earlier this year, Danny participated in a press event for Environment North Carolina to expose the challenges facing the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Smokies and other national parks and forests as a result of mounting funding cuts to the National Park Service. She was joined by Phil Francis, retired superintendent of the BRP, and a representative from Friends of the BRP. The group has just put out a report entitled *Death by a Thousand Cuts*.

“Along the Blue Ridge Parkway, campgrounds, visitors centers, and picnic areas were closed and ranger-led educational programs were cancelled for the summer,” said Liz Kazal, field associate with Environment North Carolina. “We don’t want a death by a thousand cuts for North Carolina’s national parks and forests.”

Smoky Mountain News published a great article on April 23, 2014 entitled "Working for Play: Trail group pass forest stewardship to the next generation", about our wilderness trail crew.

Articles on Wilderness Act in Let's Go and eNews

Active Facebook page. We now have 1,468 members.

Please vote in the MountainX "Best of". Go to Mountainx.com and click on "Best of" button". Vote for CMC as best hiking club and the MST as the best trail. I also chose "Friends of the Smokies" as the best non-profit.

Random people send us messages through Facebook and info@carolinamountainclub.org wanting to "help" us. They've never been a member of a hiking club or even hiked or maintained with the club. We need to encourage the individual to come on a hike or a maintenance activity and meet some of the members before we take their offer seriously.

Conservation Committee Tish Desjardins

Tish attended a Forest Service meeting on the revision of the Pisgah/Nantahala Forest Plan. It includes a proposal that part of the Appalachian Ranger District (Camp Creek Bald-Jerry's Cabin) would be designated Wilderness. Tish feels that CMC should oppose this because of the effect it would have on maintenance. Lenny agreed and Marcia moved that we oppose this and the motion passed. Tish will write a position and send it to the Forest Service.

Hiking Brenda Worley

Brenda reported that there are two key swaps scheduled for the third quarter.

It is hard right now to get leaders for the half day hikes.

Danny said that we use the Pilot Station exit 24 off Interstate 40, but we never buy anything. She feels we should.

Danny also feels that Breaking News makes it too easy to cancel hikes.

Maintenance Pete Petersen

Pete said that the Memorial for Pete (Alan) would be May 12 at John Rock Overlook at 10:30.

The agreement with ARD is ready to be signed.

There is a Training Video on the website for maintenance.

The Art Loeb Trail from the MST down to the parkway is in very bad shape. It is proposed that ladders and steps be installed and hikers should be very careful in that area. Erosion remediation needs to be done on the Sam Knob Trail.

There is a request to relocate part of the A.T. near Wolf Laurel so the water tower can't be seen. Konnarock crew will help with this. This was originally planned by the ATC to be a Konnarock project, but it is so small, the CMC has been asked to complete it.

The BRP opposes making the Pisgah Ridge Trail an official trail because hikers would have to cross the BRP 4 times (once in a blind curve) and greater use of the trail would put more pressure on parking at the already overloaded Looking Glass overlook and the Rt 816 shoulders. The BRP wants the CMC to stop promoting Pisgah Ridge as a hiking trail as was done with the

Moore's Cove loop several years ago. There was agreement to stop scheduling hikes on the Pisgah Ridge trail and to take the trail off the website.

The BRP opposes making the Pisgah Ridge Trail an official trail because hikers have to cross BRP 4 times (once in a blind curve) and it also increases illegal parking. They want CMC to stop promoting this as a hiking trail. Same as Moor's Cove loop. The Council agreed to do this.

Jim Spicer is giving a CPR class and the club is considering picking up the tab for sawyers (\$35). Some who have signed up are not sawyers. Some are not CMC members. Lenny said that we should only pay for CMC members (was not concerned whether they were sawyers or not).

Pete will send out a survey to find out how many crew members are not CMC members.

Lenny said that everyone taking the CPR course should be a CMC member and that this should be resolved at the August meeting.

Membership Lee Silver

Lee thanked Gale and Barbara for helping her get started with Membership.

There are 50 new members so far this year. Being able to join on line is helping. Gale said that she would take credit card memberships over the phone if necessary. There have been a lot of requests for patches. They cannot be bought on line. CMC presently has 900 members. All the new members have chosen the paperless option.

Website Marcia

Marcia will get together with Calvin Allen and Barbara to work on the website home page. Several topics that might be included: National Trails Day, Saturday Work Day, and MST Month.

Plans for Annual Dinner Barbara Morgan

Barbara informed the Council that the Annual Dinner is November 1 at Chariot in Hendersonville. We were assured that they will not run out of food. The price will be \$30 per person. Marcia agreed to handle the adult beverages. Barbara suggested alternating the dinner between Asheville and Hendersonville.

The meeting was adjourned we went into Executive Session.

