

# Carolina Mountain Club (CMC)

## Minutes of Council Meeting

August 15, 2017

**Council Members:** President, Barbara Morgan; Vice President, Randy Fluharty; Treasurer, George Bauernfeind; Secretary, Paula Massey; Immediate Past President, (vacant position) Councilor for Communication, Kathy Kyle; Councilor for Conservation, Ruth Hartzler; Councilor for Education and Outreach, Kay Shurtleff; Councilor for Hiking, Brenda Worley; Councilor for Membership, Lee Silver; Councilor for Technology, Marcia Bromberg; Councilor for Trail Maintenance, Ron Navik; 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 councilors in attendance: Randy, George, Kay, Marcia, Ruth, Ron, Lee, Tom, Brenda, and Kathy. Not in attendance: Steve. Guest: Tim Carrigan.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was approved to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2017 meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** George provided an overview of the year-to-date finances as well as made a request that each councilor review the line items and identify their respective program area in preparation for the 2018 budget. George asks that by September 1, each councilor send him a brief write-up of what is in each budgeted category they oversee, and by September 15 he will be asking for numbers for the 2018 budget for those categories. Ron noted that Trail Maintenance will be over budget with rationale; Council agreed that expenses were warranted.

### Reports, Discussion, and Updates

**Website and Councilor for Technology** – Tim Carrigan, guest and CMC member who started his programming work with CMC in 2006 and provides valuable data base support, offered his opinion on the Councilor for Technology position with the suggestion that position be one of fundraising. He commented that with an increase in funds through corporate gifts that the club would have sufficient monies available for technology and other needs such as trail maintenance, and mileage reimbursement for trail maintainers and hike leaders. His suggestion for fulfilling the role currently done by the Councilor for Technology was that this duty be assigned to the Vice President. Barbara thanked him for expressing his opinion and said that Council would take his comments under consideration. She provided information that a committee on technology, which would include Tim, is being developed that would offset some of Tim's concerns.

**Status of Operational Manual** – Barbara gave a report in Steve's absence that he continues to work on Operational Manual. His written report gave the summary of the current status of the work. His second document was the Table of Contents, in which he noted the current status of each "piece" so that it was easy to see what parts are complete and what parts still need material. Barbara asked everyone present to

look carefully at the outline and see what items “belong” to them and to communicate to Steve and Barbara that they take responsibility for ensuring that the information gets written, if it is not already marked as Complete. In some instances, this is the responsibility of someone not on Council, such as Historian and Challenge Committee Chair. The deadline for this step is September 1. Then, by September 30, individuals need to submit their content for those items, sending it both to Steve and to Barbara.

Barbara stated that she hopes to be able to report at the 2017 Annual Meeting that the content of the Operations Manual is complete. The task of getting it available online will take a separate, future, effort.

**Status of MST Tunnel Bypass Trails**-Council offered a gesture of appreciation, to be followed with written letter, to Les Love, Walt Weber, Bob Beech, and Rich Evans who have been working to update Walt’s MST Trail book, and a special thanks to Les Love for his work in achieving the permit from NC to allow the two tunnel bypass trails to be built.

**Annual Dinner**-Randy distributed the list of invitees and updates on contact names were made prior to written invitation. Randy will now send the invitations out ASAP. A separate eBlast will be sent to members in September with Annual Dinner information and registration, with a special explanation of the reason for the change in having the Annual Meeting on a weeknight.

**MST in a Day Status**-Barbara and Gregory Betchel are working on the Meetup sign-in for designated trail sections for the September 9<sup>th</sup> event to have hikers walk the entire MST, with CMC being responsible for the portions maintained by the club. Special thanks to MST section maintainers who answered the call to hike their sections on that day and to Council members who are able to help.

**Vacancy - Historian** -Rocko Smucker, CMC’s Historian, has resigned due to family reasons. Barbara encouraged councilors to think about, and suggest, members to replace Rocko. It was suggested that a notice for the need for a CMC member to fill the position be put in CMC eNews.

**Participation by Minors When Parent/Guardian is Not Present**-The permission and waiver form presented by Barbara in a pre-council email was approved by motion and unanimous vote of council. The purpose of the forms was to allow a parent or guardian wishing their child under the age of 18 to participate in club activities, such as hiking, and to assign responsibility to a responsible individual named on the form when the parent/guardian is unable to be present. This consists of two documents: *Permission Form for Unescorted Minor’s Participation in Carolina Mountain Club Activities* and a *Medical Treatment Authorization Form*.

**Promotional Events**-Barbara requested volunteers for the September 17 Asheville Outdoor Show being organized by Diamond Brand. Kathy and Michael have agreed to help. Marcia will cover the Givens Estate Wellness Fair on August 24 but additional help is welcome.

**Pisgah Conservancy**-A \$140 check was sent to CMC for the CMC members who purchased a Friends of Pisgah Conservancy license plate promoted by John Cottingham, Executive Director of the Conservancy.

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

**Conservation-** Ruth thanked Council members for providing input and attending hearings regarding the Forest Service Management Plan; she reported that logging may begin on Rube Rock area. Council agreed to send a letter stating that we represent the hiking community and need full access of the written materials.

**Communications-**Kathy reported that Danny Bernstein and Susan Canale are pursuing Instagram as another medium to reach prospective members, also that photos will be shown during the CMC annual dinner.

**Membership-**Lee submitted a written report and stated that membership numbers are consistent with last year; she continues to respond to requests for membership information. Additionally, she asked whether CMC patches could or should be sold on the club's website or in a more simplified manner than the current process. No decision was made.

**Technology-**Marcia updated council on work being done for the club through Stratos to make the website adaptive, meaning the look of the site changes depending on the size of the device one is using since a high percentage of web access is not on smartphones or tablets. Marcia and Barbara have approved the prototype view but it will not be "live" on the club's website until she has given formal approval. There was a general discussion on technology and role in CMC.

**Hiking-**Brenda reported that the work on the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter hiking schedule is almost complete and that Meetup continues; Brenda and Lee are working with Tim on changes in procedures for scheduling hikes. There have been some challenges, but overall the changes are seen as beneficial.

**Education and Community Outreach-**Kay provided update on Youth Partner Challenge and that two of the participating youth will have completed the challenge by the Annual Meeting and will be present to receive their award at the beginning of the dinner.

**Trail Maintenance-**Ron reported that the spring "walk-thru" of the AT and MST has been completed as well as the first CPR training with the newly certified instructor, Steve Forst. The Maintainers Picnic will be held on September 16 and all councilors are invited to attend. He provided an update on the Pisgah National Forest Plan recommendation to include, "the Bald Mountain Area as a designated Wilderness Study Area (RWSA)" and requested that CMC submit a letter supporting this recommendation with the caveat that the wording for the Forest Service recommendation include language that does not prohibit use of motorized maintenance equipment while in the RWSA status, and that the Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS) commit to supporting the CMC with trail maintenance of the section of the AT and five feeder trails in the designated areas once Congress actually officially designates the Wilderness Areas. Motion made and approved.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:45 pm. Summary of meeting prepared by Paula Massey.

Council then went into Executive Session.