

Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) October 2019 Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 1, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Earthfare, 1856 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803

Present:

President: Randy Fluharty

Secretary: Kathy McAuley

Treasurer: George Bauernfeind, on phone

Immediate Past President: Barbara Morgan

Councilor for Communication: Stuart English

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: Chris Koebelin

Absent:

Vice President, Debby Jones

Councilor for Conservation: Mike Fisher

Councilor for Membership: Lynn Saul

Councilor at Large: Hugh Hensleigh

Approval of Minutes

Randy opened the meeting with a request for approval of the August 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was made by Stuart, seconded by Ron, and approved by the Council.

Treasurer's Report

George provided an update. CMC income is more than the expenses. CMC continues to grow and is financially healthy. Regarding the 2020 budget, the committee requests have been submitted and included in the budget. Contributions income will be increased from \$3,500 to \$4,500. It is anticipated that book sales will be slowing down. The annual dinner will be the same as last year for income, as we are keeping the fees and club subsidies the same. The spring social always breaks even (i.e. costs and expenses are the same). The Awards Committee, the Education and Outreach Committee, and Technology requested the same amounts as last year. The Conservation Committee budget is increasing \$150. The Hiking Committee requested an increase of \$500 in anticipation of increased attendance and cost increase for the Hike Leaders' Dinner. The insurance has increased by approximately \$250 for the trailer used by trail maintenance. The Membership Committee requested an additional \$1200 for promotional activities to include a display with the CMC logo. The Trails Committee budget increased by \$400 for mileage. The Trails Maintainers' picnic, CPR course and First Aid training remained the same. The motion to approve the budget for voting by

CMC members at the Annual Meeting was made by George, seconded by Jan, and approved by the Council.

Liability Waiver Form (waiver) revision

Barbara discussed how the task force assigned to this project (Barbara, Chris, Kathy, and Jan) had been working over several months to develop a waiver to sufficiently protect the Council and club members. The waiver was sent out to Council members, along with samples of what other similar organizations are doing. Hiking has inherent risks, so it is important that all Council members, volunteers, and club members be protected. Transportation is specifically excluded in the waiver as it is not part of the activity and CMC will not be responsible for transportation. The task force worked diligently to reduce the document to 2 pages. The lawyer provided final approval for this current version. Barbara made the motion to approve the new waiver, utilizing a roll out system to educate members before implementation. A small committee, to include Brenda Worley of the Hiking Committee, will develop the roll out plan. Jan seconded the motion and it was approved by Council.

Jan recommended adding a sentence to the waiver that if a hiker wants to opt out of having a photo taken and potentially published, they can circle their name on the waiver. Jan made a motion for approval of the additional sentence in the waiver, Stuart seconded, and it was approved by Council.

Action Item: Committee to be established and to meet to discuss roll out of new waiver.

Nominating Committee

The 2020 slate of officers is being finalized for vote at the Annual Meeting (see attachment)

Annual Meeting and Dinner

The agenda will be similar to last year. Tickets for children will cost \$12.

Action Item: Council is looking for members to man the booths at the Annual Dinner. eNews to be sent out to members regarding the Annual Dinner.

Spring Social

The Spring Social committee is currently working on details for this event. The North Carolina Arboretum, which has been used for many years, has had a change in their alcohol policy. Additionally, the CMC food vendor previously used is no longer in business. This is a good time to consider other options. It was decided that the event would continue to take place at the Arboretum in 2020, with changes to the format of the event.

Action Item: Plan for Spring Social to be developed by committee.

Conservation Committee

Last year CMC donated \$100 to the Nantahala Pisgah Forest Partnership (NPFP). Randy asked if CMC would like to make the same amount donation again this year. Ron made a motion to approve the donation, Stuart seconded, and the Council approved. The U.S. Forest Service plan is not yet final.

Action Item: Donation of \$100 to be sent to the NPFP.

Hiking

Daisy Teng Karasek will be scheduling the Wednesday hikes for the first quarter of 2020. Several hikes have already been scheduled. The hike leader dinner has been moved to the Double Tree Hotel in Asheville. The event is scheduled for February 15, 2020. Brenda noted that the work completed (trail work and signs) from Bee Tree to Craven Gap trails is fantastic.

Education

Youth Partnership Challenge (YPC) hikes will be advertised as family friendly hikes. There have been 5 YPC completers this year. Jan is working with Stuart and Danny Bernstein on establishing an Instagram account. The Committee is currently working on a mission statement and may look to farm out some tasks to other committees, as appropriate.

Trail Maintenance

- Grants Received:
 - NC Recreational Trails Program (*RTP*) Safety and Education awarded CMC \$3,691 for Sawyer Class and Rock Work Class.
- Blue Ridge Parkway Conservation Trust is providing 6 crew weeks of labor by the NC Youth Conservation Corps to work on refurbishing the Mountains to Sea Trail (MST) from Mount Pisgah to Elk Pasture Gap.

The Trail Maintainers picnic was held on 9/14/19. Twenty five awards were presented for hours of volunteer work, including Skip Sheldon for 7000 hours. Rich Evans was awarded the CMC Award of Appreciation. Larry Sobil was honored, as he retires as the Wednesday Crew Leader.

Secondary trails maintainer slots are being filled but there are still some openings.

Trail projects are continuing on the Mount Pisgah Trail, the Craggy Mountain section of the Mountain to Sea Trail and the Art Loeb Trail.

A decision was needed regarding comprehensive insurance of the Trails trailer. The options included paying \$250 for the insurance or self-insuring the \$3500 trailer. Ron made a motion to insure the trailer for the \$250, Jan seconded, and Council approved.

Action Item: Volunteers needed for remaining secondary trails maintainer slots.

Membership

No report

Communication

Pictures are needed for the Annual Dinner to include waterfalls, insects, trees, and stones (WITS).

Action Item: Any members are requested to send hiking WITS pictures for the Annual Dinner.

Technology

Technology is running smoothly, no issues to report.

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Next Meeting : Annual Meeting, Saturday, October 26, 2019 , 5:30 PM, Doubletree Hotel, 115 Hendersonville Rd., Asheville 28803