

**CMC Council Meeting**  
**Thursday May 10, 2012**  
**6 P.M. to 9 P.M.**  
57 Clinton Ave. Asheville

**Council Members Present**

Jim Ariail, Danny Bernstein, Marcia Bromberg, Barth Brooker, Tish Desjardins, Stuart English, Don Gardner, Barbara Morgan, Jim Reel, Lee Silver, Jim Spicer

**Council Members Absent**

Peter Barr, Pete Petersen

**Guests**

Bruce Bente, Lenny Bernstein

The CMC Council minutes for May 10, 2012 were approved.

Jim Ariail added the Income and Expense statement to his financial report. He mentioned that half of a CD was maturing. Jim will use half of the CD coming up for renewal to fund operating cash needs. The Treasurer's report was approved.

After Jim Ariail did some research, he learned that CMC had never asked for tax-exempt status from the state of North Carolina. Once we get this status, we'll be able to get a refund from our NC taxes and we may be able to collect it retroactively. He'll be working to get a sales tax number. He suggested that we not charge sales tax on the MST book that we sell, but we'll start paying sales tax to the state, lowering our profit.

Don Gardner offered kudos to Jim for all the work he's doing on CMC's finances.

1. Lenny Bernstein reported on several items:

\* Lenny announced that as of now, Diamond Brand will only be offering a \$10 gift card to CMC members. Marcia wrote a letter to our members in the eNews explaining this and also sent it to Sarah Merrill of Diamond Brand.

\* As of now, the National Park Service budget for managing the open areas on the A.T. has been eliminated. This means that traditional open areas such as Max Patch and Big Bald will not be mowed and kept clear. Lenny suggested that CMC write a letter explaining the importance of keeping these iconic balds cleared. Marcia wrote a letter to Pam Underhill, Superintendent of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (A.T.) which was printed in the May 2012 eNews.

\* ATC will offer volunteer leadership training. Marcia and Don will be attending this course.

\* John Odell will be offering a workshop on rare plants.

\* Jim Reel will now be representing CMC at Regional Partnership Council (RPC) meetings.

\* ATC Biennial Meeting received \$10,000 from the NC License plate program to hire an administrator to help volunteers working on the meeting. Jim Reel volunteered to work the silent auction and will need help to get donations of merchandise.

## 2. Member Survey

Marcia reported that we received a good response rate to the members' survey that was recently sent out. In general, members are happy with what we're doing. People get their CMC information from *Let's Go*, *eNews* and then the website. A full report will be in the 3rd. quarter *Let's Go*.

## 3. NCFS Trails Non-Motorized Trail Strategy Update

Tish Desjardins updated us on the Trails Strategy. She's been attending the meeting for the Appalachian District. Attendees suggested connecting trails to make some loops but some trails will be decommissioned.

Bruce has been attending the Pisgah Ranger meetings. Rangers have said that there's no money in their budget to maintain trails. We need to find more volunteers to maintain trails.

Wild South is taking an inventory of trails in the Pisgah and Grandfather Districts. They will provide training so trail maintainers and hikers can do trail assessment.

Marcia pointed out that we need to keep maintaining the trails we hike the most and be part of the conversation. Leaders need to be aware of mountain bikes on the trail.

## 4. Technology Update - Marcia

Marcia announced that Charlie Ferguson will be retiring as website manager. Stratos will now start charging for website maintenance. We'll contract out for maybe two hours a month. But we still need a CMC volunteer to help members with the CMC system, give out passwords and other administrative functions.

Marcia and other CMC members are planning a meeting with Stratos.

## G. Groundhog Creek Trail - Stuart

Groundhog Creek Trail forms a loop with the A.T. But right now it's not being maintained and is slated to be decommissioned by the Forest Service. Stuart said that "Not too many people use the trail and that's the beauty of it."

Stuart, Bruce, Charlie Ferguson, Ruth Hartzler, and Marianne Newman have formed an ad hoc committee to save the trail. Right now, lots of trees are down and there's plenty of poison ivy. The maintenance should wait until October.

## H. Other items

\* We need to put in a grant proposal for maintenance tools.

\* Danny is storing the LED projector at her house

\* Pisgah National Forest is getting a new Forest Supervisor. Marcia and other CMC representatives will meet with her in June.

#### 4. Committee Reports

A. Challenge - No report

B. Communications - Stuart English

Kathy Kyle is taking over the eNews. Danny will keep working on the eNews until Kathy is comfortable with the procedures.

C. Conservation - Tish

Tish will keep abreast of the schedule of proposed actions by the US Forest Service. Tish is also going to the meetings on *Mountain Treasures* held by the Wilderness Society.

D. Education - Jim Spicer

Jim S. has purchased the mannequins for CPR and finds them a great improvement for teaching CPR.

As of now, every new CMC trail maintainer must be a club member.

Jim S. will look into offering a Wilderness First Aid course again.

The Council voted to reject working with Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy to certify the AmeriCorp members in acquiring their CPR certifications thru CMC.

The Council rejected working with the 200 mile relay race contact in clearing the trails that they would be using for their annual runs that we have jurisdiction to maintain.

E. Hiking - Jim Reel

Jim reported that the April Camporee went well - 22 people attended. The next Camporee will be July 13 to 15 and they need leaders.

Paul Benson wants to start a CMC Meet-up group. If this is approved by the Hiking Committee, it's with the understanding that every aspect of how we now lead hikes must be followed.

Hike leaders list should be shared between Wednesday, weekend-all day, and half-day schedulers.

F. Maintenance - Pete Petersen

Pete was not able to come to the meeting but sent in a Crew Chief Meeting report

G. Membership - Barbara Morgan

Barbara announced that we have 77 new members since January 1, 2012. As of now, we have 920 members. *Let's Go* are sent out to 753 addresses covering 20 states and Mexico.

Danny asked about all those non-members that get *Let's Go* for free. When was the last time that anyone looked at who they were and if it made sense to still send them? Barbara explained that she and the database manager are aware of the problem but can't figure out where these names come from and how to remove them.

Before adjournment, Jim R. mentioned that it was great to see Stuart back at the meetings and on the trail again. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danny Bernstein