

CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CLUB

Minutes of Council Meeting

May 8, 2018

Council Members: President, Randy Fluharty; Vice President, Debby Jones; Treasurer, George Bauernfeind; Secretary, Paula Massey; Past President, Barbara Morgan; Councilor for Communication, Kathy Kyle; Councilor for Conservation, Ruth Hartzler; Councilor for Education/Outreach, Jan Onan; Councilor for Hiking, Gregory Bechtel; Councilor for Membership, Lynn Saul; Councilor for Technology, Judy Magura (with Jim); Councilor for Trail Maintenance, Ron Navik; Councilor-at-Large, Michael Fisher; Councilor-at-Large, Chris Koebelin.

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by President Randy Fluharty with the following in attendance: Debby, George, Barbara, Kathy, Ruth, Jan, Gregory, Lynn, Judy (and Jim), Ron, Michael, and Chris. Paula Massey was unable to attend and Barbara Morgan took notes for the meeting in her stead. Guests: Kathy McAuley, Ann Hendrickson, and Paul Llanso.

Approval of Minutes A motion was made and seconded to accept the February 13, 2018 minutes with minor edits for appearance. Motion carried.

Business

Treasurer's Report - George reviewed the financial statements for 2018 through 4/30/18, noting that income was as expected for this time in the year and that contributions at \$1701 were a bit ahead of expected for April. The Pete A. Petersen fund is now \$0 following a donation of the remaining amount to the Pisgah Conservancy. Income vs expenses for the Spring Social are not all in, but it appears that there was a bit less generated compared to previous years. Barbara commented that attendance was down for some reason and this would have affected the income side.

Paul Llanso, Leave No Trace (LNT) – Paul presented two handouts: *The Leave No Trace Seven Principles* and *A Vision Statement "Carolina Mountain Club is a Leave No Trace Organization."* His concept was whether the Council could approve a statement to that effect and how we would "show ourselves" as an LNT organization. He said that he had attended the Crew Leaders' Meeting for Trail Maintenance earlier that day and that they had approved it. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved that we would say that we strive to fully practice LNT principles. As to how we would get this idea across to the public, we would demonstrate and encourage approved practices and behaviors in our hikes and trail maintenance, would put the LNT wording into the New Member letter, and would consider adding wording to such things as business cards or other things available to the public.

Grant Coordinator, Kathy McAuley – At the last Council meeting, Randy announced that Kathy had agreed to take on the role of Grant Coordinator, so she came to the meeting to introduce herself and tell what she's been doing. She has already begun to research grant sources and opportunities and will work with areas of the club to determine their needs, parameters, etc. and provide assistance and support in

finding funds for important club projects. She said that in her researching, she is paying attention to details required by potential grants regarding requirements, reporting, timelines, and the like.

CMC Survey Results – Jan, Kathy, and Lynn reported on results of the recent Survey Monkey 10 question survey completed by over 200 members online. Overall, respondents indicated general satisfaction with the club and made some constructive suggestions and in some cases offered to help in specific areas. Jan said she would forward those offers to appropriate councilors and stressed that it was very important to respond in some way to any of these stated offers. More consideration needs to be given to what was learned through the survey and what plans/changes might come from the information.

Trail Maintenance, Ann and Ron – They talked about ongoing projects in the trail maintenance area, especially the very large project of mitigating erosion at Max Patch and installing a new informational kiosk. So far, over 800 CMC volunteer hours have been put into this project. Some of the work includes snow fencing that has been installed to block social trails, the old eroded trails have and are being rehabilitated, including the building of box steps to replace the existing worn out steps, and plants, wild grass and wildflower seeds have been sown to stabilize the soil. A major workday and special events to add publicity will be held June 2 (National Trails Day). Ron talked about the grant funding for this project, and that the cost of the kiosk was estimated to be about \$1500 but for the required structure will actually be closer to \$7,500. Ron suggested that Council approve using some of our surplus funds (which are not calculated into the income and expenses for each year's budget) to help pay for this project. A motion was made, seconded, and approved that we allow the use of up to \$2500 to supplement the grant funds from ATC and LL Bean which have been awarded and the several personal financial donations made by trail maintainers.

In addition, Ann talked on behalf of someone she would like the Council to consider for Honorary Lifetime Membership. At this time, as no decision was made, it is not appropriate to share this information. Just before the meeting was adjourned, there was brief discussion of the history and implied criteria for such awards.

Annual Dinner and Meeting plans, Debby – She reported that the meeting will be held on Saturday, November 3. She has been investigating options for where it will be held, with the Chariot in Hendersonville and the Hilton / Doubletree near Biltmore Village as the two most viable options. The Council voted to have it at the Doubletree with consideration of the more central location being a factor. There is concern that the cost of the dinner is becoming a deterrent to some members who might want to attend. At this point, it is difficult to project the per person cost as the number attending and the number of special guests attending (such as reps from the Forest Service, ATC, and the like, for whom the club pays their dinner cost) is unknown. There was discussion of using some of the club's surplus funds to supplement the cost and make it more affordable. Barbara suggested that since such use had not been done in the past and since it appears that unrestricted donations will exceed budget projections, that a portion of the cost of the meals could be offset through use of these donations since it is for the good of the club that more members attend the Annual Meeting. Council agreed that this would be an appropriate use of donated monies. At the Annual Meeting, membership can be asked to approve future use of some surplus funds to support the costs for members' dinners.

T-shirts and draft of Accident Report Form, Barbara – Over the years, there have been several requests for the club to make club t-shirts available for members to purchase. Council agreed that the idea was worth exploring. Barbara, Chris, and Judy will explore the question of design, fabric, cost, and distribution and report at the next regular meeting.

At the February meeting's discussion of the club's accident and liability insurance, the suggestion came up that it would be beneficial to have a means of reporting and keeping record of accidents or injuries that occur during club events, including hikes. Chris and Barbara developed a draft form and Barbara presented it to the Council for discussion. Ron noted that it was not needed for those doing trail maintenance work as any incidents are reported to the federal or state agency where the work is located. It was agreed that some wording needed to be changed, especially to include reporting incidents as well as accidents or injury. In addition, there needs to be better information as to the rationale and value of collecting this information. Chris and Barbara will present a draft revision at the next Council meeting and may solicit comments via email prior.

Bi- Annual Volunteer Leadership Meeting, Randy reported on the upcoming ATC Leadership Training. ATC pays for two attendees per club, and this year he wants three to attend. It will be Debby, Ron, and Paul Curtin (new AT Supervisor). The club will pay the cost for the third attendee.

Council Reports

Maintenance – Ron reported briefly on various projects and their status. A number of projects are in process or in the planning phase for this year, including Bull Gap/Rattlesnake Lodge (complete except for signage), Max Patch restoration, Art Loeb Trail restoration, Mt Pisgah trail restoration, John Rock, MST Extension, Walnut Mt Shelter relocation, Rich Mtn Fire Tower restoration, and camping site development along the AT. Also reviewed were Konnarock plans for this year and the next two years.

Conservation – Ruth had planned for the Council to discuss and possibly approve the CMC Policy on Multi-use Trails (Hiking and Mountain Biking) 5/2/18 DRAFT sent out by email. Due to time constraints, this was postponed.

Note: the previous portions of the meeting had taken longer than expected, and by the time the Reports segment was begun, there was insufficient time to complete the agenda. Rather than rush important discussions, Council agreed to meet again in June to finish the items on the agenda. Randy will contact Councilors to determine a date for this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: Randy adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm

Next Meeting: August 14, 2018, 6:00-9:00 pm at the Earthfare on Hendersonville Rd.

Minutes of meeting prepared by Barbara Morgan

