

Minutes, CMC Council Meeting

October 5, 2015

The Meeting was called to order by President Bernstein at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Jim Ariail, Lenny Bernstein, Marcia Bromberg, Ruth Hartzler, Ann Hendrickson, Kathy Kyle, Barbara Morgan, Pete Peterson, Kay Shurtleff, Lee Silver, Dave Wetmore, Brenda Worley.

Approval of the Minutes, Dave Wetmore

- A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 3rd was passed.

Treasurer's Report, Jim Ariail

- Membership dues are down 8% from this time last year, but the first and fourth quarters typically have a larger inflow of dues.
- Postage costs for the distribution of *Let's Go* have decreased as more members use email delivery.
- An additional \$300 was added to the 2016 hiking budget.
- A motion was made and passed to approve the 2016 proposed budget

Announcements

- President Bernstein welcomed the 2016 Council nominees who attended as observers. They included Steve Pierce, Randy Fluharty, and Tom Weaver.

Annual Dinner and Meeting, Barbara Morgan

- An Annual Dinner Summary of Information was circulated. Plans for the Dinner are proceeding as planned.

Updates

- 100 Hikes Project (Stephen Pierce):
Seventy-five of the hikes are finished. Information such as GPS tracks and descriptions are still lacking for some of the hikes. There may be some changes in the hike list to improve their variety. The project (not map publication) will probably be completed sometime early in the first quarter of next year. Map production could take up to five months.
- Vehicle for Use by Maintainers (Ann Hendrickson)
There is agreement that our trail maintenance program has expanded to the point where to expect volunteers to donate their cars and gasoline at 14 cents per mile is becoming unrealistic and unfair. Several options; leasing, renting, increasing the mileage allowance, and using a FS vehicle with the CMC and FS sharing the cost were discussed. A motion was passed that, subject to agreement by the Forest Service, the Club would pay up to \$3000 towards the cost of operation a FS vehicle for trail maintenance purposes. This issue will be taken up at the Planning Meeting early next year.

- Blue Ridge Parkway Maintenance Agreement (Pete Peterson)
An agreement has been finalized and will be in effect for five years.
- MST Completion (Pete Peterson)
The Waterrock Knob section should be completed by the time of the Annual Meeting. There will be a grand opening on June 4th to celebrate the completion of the CMC segment of the MST. The location for the opening celebration has not been finalized.
- Cooperation with the Boy Scouts (Lenny Bernstein)
We have been requested to provide a speaker for an event at Haywood Community College. The talk should cover hiking fundamentals, area hikes, etc.
- Publication of the MST Trail Guide (Lenny Bernstein)
Grateful Steps will not be publishing the Guide, It will be done more cheaply and on a demand basis by Creative Space.
- Special Events (Lenny Bernstein)
The “Walk in the Woods” showing was very successful. A discussion of possible future special events ensued. The Treasurer remarked that we can easily receive payments for them. Several future events were mentioned; publication of the 100 Favorite Hikes Map, and the Grand Opening of the MST among them.
- ATC Biennial Meetings (Lenny Bernstein)
The meetings may be split in two, with a hiking and social meeting and a business and training occurring on alternate years.
- Memorandum of Agreement between the ATC and its member Clubs (Lenny Bernstein)
We reviewed the draft of a new MOU, prepared by the ATC’s Partner and Communications Committee. The original MOU was signed in 1997, and we feel that any new MOU should be reviewed within four years of its adoption.

The CMC reiterates its commitment to maintain its section of the A.T. to the ATC standards. At this time the Club is hesitant to expand its commitments to the ATC to areas other than trail maintenance.

We feel that member Clubs should not be should not be asked to take on responsibilities not previously agreed upon. The major goals of the Club are centered around our hiking program (approximately 200 per year) and maintaining over 400 miles of trail, including 93 miles of the A.T. The Club feels that any additional responsibilities might well conflict with our major goals of maintaining our very active hiking and maintenance programs. This does not mean that we would not take on additional ATC responsibilities and a motion was made and passed that we would take such responsibilities if the Club felt that it could do so without detriment to its local efforts. Committee Reports

- Conservation, Ruth Hartzler

The original Forest Plan collaborative, Nantahala Pisgah Forest Partnership NFPF, meets Thursday with report from the Recreation Team. CMC included a section on hiking. We gave the CMC database files that Charlie Ferguson created to Hugh Irwin, TWS, for a mapping project.

The new collaborative, Stakeholder Forum for the Nantahala Pisgah Forest Plan Revision, meets Oct. 20 for the second time. Morgan will attend to represent the AT. Doug Veazey will represent the MST. He is a trail maintenance leader recommended by Kate Dixon. Professional facilitators funded by the FS and two key FS staff attend every meeting. Conservation Committee is working on criteria for trail protection and forest restoration. Kayah Gaydish is a new member.

The Committee is concerned about trail damage during logging operations. Also, loggers sometimes plant inappropriate species of trees during their restoration processes. Conservation Committee members would like to attend the meetings of other CMC committees.

- Education and Community Outreach, Kay Shurtleff

The first Youth/Partner hike has been rescheduled for October 17th. Soon this program will have a presence on the CMC Website. The patch for the program has been approved and will soon be in production.

- Hiking, Brenda Worley

The Hike Leaders dinner will be on February 26th. A venue has not yet been selected.

- Membership, Lee Silver

The "Let's Hike" brochure may be revised. Some government agencies (e.g., Parkway Center) wish to add brochures for local activities to their shelves

- Trail Maintenance, Pete Peterson

Pete Peterson spoke briefly but feelingly about Howard McDonald's contributions to the trail maintenance program.

A group, Friends of the Pisgah Ranger District, is being formed to help provide funds for things which the FS can no longer support.

Announcements

Barbara Morgan announced that the 2016 Council planning meeting will be on January 9th, probably at the BRP Visitor Center.c

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.