

## **Carolina Mountain Club (CMC) 2019 Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Earthfare, 1856 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville, NC 28803**

Present:

President: Randy Fluharty

Vice-President: Debby Jones

Secretary: Kathy McAuley

Treasurer: George Bauernfeind

Immediate Past President: Barbara Morgan

Councilor for Communication: Stuart English

Councilor for Conservation: Mike Fisher

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

Councilor for Membership: Lynn Saul

Daniel Howe, Guest

Paul Curtin, Guest

Absent:

Councilor at Large: Hugh Hensleigh

Approval of Minutes – Randy opened the meeting with a request for approval of the April 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was made by Barbara, seconded by George, and approved by the Council.

### **Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) Update:**

Daniel Howe, currently on the Board of Directors for the ATC, provided an update on the ATC Strategic Plan (SP). Mr. Howe expressed thanks to CMC for the work that we do on the Appalachian Trail. The ATC SP is about to be renewed, with research completed to determine future impacts (20 years out) to the AT. Consideration was given to eastern seaboard population growth, including diversity and age, non-born United States citizens, and where the AT connects with major metro areas.

Consideration has also been given to how technology has changed the AT experience, particularly for thru-hikers and how to use technology going forward. The SP seeks to preserve the Wild East by not only maintaining the foot path, but also what can be seen from the trail, maintaining of volunteers and advocates, conserving land trusts, and most importantly preservation of the experience. The draft SP came out in May, a survey will be sent to members and others to solicit feedback. The main focus of the plan is:

1. Expand the Wild East conservation efforts (e.g. bird habitats, flora)
2. Make new friends – Membership is down in organizations generally, finding new ways to engage people and make volunteering easy.

3. Build our base – Move beyond membership dues and secure bigger donors, such as corporate partnerships. Identify how to attract the best employees.
4. Trail communities – Build alliances with rural conservative communities to work together as political advocates and include as part of the AT community.

The budget for the SP will have a 3 year timeframe and will be revisited annually and modified as needed, with a new year added as the first year ends to create a rolling 3 year plan. The annual ATC board meeting is in early September where the survey feedback will be reviewed. ATC will work through the winter to complete this review and then approve the SP in the spring to align with the 2020 budget.

**Action Item: CMC Council and member completion of survey when received.**

### **Treasurer's Report**

George provided an update that the June 30 statement was reviewed on August 5 and is completed. CMC has a balance of \$1200 in revenues. The Mountains -to-Sea Trail Guide, 2017 edition had a 3<sup>rd</sup> printing of 250 copies and CMC makes a few dollars per copy. At the October meeting, the Council will approve the 2020 budget, so Committee requests for budget allocations will need to be submitted no later than 9/1.

**Action Item: Committees to submit budget requests on or before 9/1.**

### **CMC Store**

George will be leading this project. The IT vendor provided CMC with an estimated cost proposal of \$480 for an online store. CMC already has the payment mechanism in place. The fulfillment will be completed by the individuals with the product(s), still to be determined. The Mountains -to-Sea Trail Guide, 2017 edition is outside of the online store process, however the future plan includes having the book reseller payments sent through our current payment mechanism. Friends of the Mountains to Sea Trail are resellers for the book and have agreed to ship the books for orders that come to them. George motioned to approve work with the Technology Committee and the vendor, with details to be worked out and a final proposal to be submitted to Council in the future. Barbara seconded the motion and the Council approved.

**Action Item: George to work with Technology Committee and IT vendor on finalizing online store project, for Council approval in the future.**

### **Conservation Committee**

Mike provided an update on the proposal to revise National Environmental Policy Act (**NEPA**) guidelines. There is a short time period for public review of the proposal. CMC is currently working to put together comments. Nantahala Pisgah Forest Partnership is drafting a letter, which CMC can sign or lift specific pieces to submit with CMC response. eNews will be used to inform members how to submit comments. The proposal includes category exclusions that CMC considers undesirable elements.

Motion by Mike for the Conservation Committee to move forward with a response letter to be sent to the Forest Service, Ron seconded the motion and the Council approved.

The Stakeholder's Forum is drafting press releases to be included with the response, including quotes. Mike made a motion that we proceed with this, Jan seconded and the Council approved.

Deirdre Perot, the national public lands representative for the Back Country Horsemen of North Carolina (BCH) has requested that CMC join with BCH regarding bike racing on trails. Currently there is a special use permitting process with no public notification and a small fee. The bike races can last hours or days. Mike made a motion for Ron to attend an upcoming meeting on this. Stuart seconded the motion and the Council approved.

The Twelve Mile Project is an eco-system management project in northern Haywood County. The formal proposal is now out for comment. Mike made a motion that we provide comments to this proposal, Barbara seconded, and the Council approved.

#### **Action Items:**

- **CMC to provide comment on the proposal to revise NEPA guidelines. Members may want to contact elected officials to share their concerns with this plan.**
- **Ron to attend meeting regarding the BCH and bike races.**
- **CMC to provide comment on the Twelve Mile Project proposal.**

#### **Liability Waiver Release Form**

The committee to review the liability release waiver (waiver) form included: Barbara, Chris, Kathy and Jan. Barbara, on behalf of CMC, engaged a licensed North Carolina lawyer to review a revised draft of the waiver. The goal of the committee was to provide adequate protections for volunteers, in a succinct form. The proposal from the lawyer was longer than anticipated, however, the committee is convinced this language is necessary. Barbara motioned for a discussion of the waiver and Stu seconded. Someone asked whether the Club's insurance policy provides protection for some issues addressed in the waiver and felt that knowing more about the policy's coverage could affect what is needed in the waiver. The discussion was tabled until Council concerns are provided to the committee and additional information is provided to the Council to address any concerns / questions. This item will be revisited at the October meeting.

**Action Item: Committee to obtain additional details on Council concerns / questions and revisit at October meeting.**

## **Grants**

Kathy provided a copy of the updated Grant Opportunities spreadsheet and explained that any committee projects or needs can be discussed to determine which grants may be applicable. Kathy also indicated a willingness help with any documentation submission requirements.

**Action Item: Committees to identify any upcoming needs and work with Kathy to find grant opportunities.**

## **Spring Social**

Member interest in the Spring Social is declining. The North Carolina Arboretum is already booked by the CMC for our use. A committee was established to revamp the spring social, this committee will include: Barbara, Randy, Stuart, and the Membership Committee.

**Action Item: Spring Social committee to meet to revamp the Spring Social.**

## **Annual Dinner**

Debby indicated the dinner will be October 26, at the Biltmore Village Double Tree. If any Council member has new names for the list of invited guests, please send them to Debby.

## **Awards Committee and Nominations**

The Awards Committee is chaired by Barbara, with Stu as Council representative and also includes two club members not currently on Council. The deadline for awards nominations is August 19 and after that date the committee will decide the recipients of the Club's two annual awards.

The Nominations Committee is chaired by Barbara and will have Randy and Ron as Council representatives and Kathy Kyle and John Busse as non-Council members of the committee. There are 6 positions to be filled this year.

**Action item: Members of each committee to develop lists for awards and nominations prior to deadlines. These lists are not approved by Council.**

## **Committee Reports**

### **Trail Maintenance**

The ATC tag grant money was used for a tool trailer which will be outfitted with racks and tools to be used by volunteers. Signage on the trailer will identify CMC volunteers maintaining the trails.

June 1 was National Trails Day and CMC had over 100 volunteers.

The Visitor Use Management Trail Ambassador Project is seeking club members to be present on the Max Patch Trails to answer questions and pass on the messages of sustainability and Leave No Trace.

Individual club members are maintaining trails and reporting any major work required to the trails crews for the CMC Secondary Trails Maintenance Program for the Pisgah National Forest.

Pisgah Pride Day 2019 included work on the Mt. Pisgah trail and the John Rock Trail. The crews are also working on restoring the Mountains to Sea Trail near Craggy Mountain and the Graveyard Fields loop.

The ATC Konnarock crew (volunteers from anywhere in the country) will be working on remote areas of the Appalachian Trail in the coming weeks.

### **Membership**

Lynn reported that membership has reached 1000, with 119 net new members in 2019.

### **Communications**

Stuart requested trail photos of waterfalls, insects, stones, and trees be sent to Bobbi Powers for the annual dinner. Danny Bernstein is encouraging members to add the CMC organization to their facebook page. Stuart also commented on our website as a tool in Communications.

### **Education and Outreach**

Jan reported that the Map Navigation class is completed and will be offered again in the future.

Sarah Broughton will forward National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) class email scenarios to members. These provide real life medical situations on the trail and how they were handled.

The committee is looking to expand the Youth Partner Challenge (YPC). There will be a trial family hike offered in the fall, to encourage young families to participate in CMC hikes. This past year 58 youth and 28 adults attended YPC hikes. YPC is also planning to get out individual stories of YPC completers to the press. YPC is also seeking to partner with Frugal Backpacker, which currently gives young hikers prizes for completing a specific number of hikes.

**Action Item: Jan to reach out to Frugal Backpacker.**

### **Conservation**

See Conservation Committee paragraph above

### **Hiking**

Brenda is currently scheduling 4<sup>th</sup> quarter hikes. Daisy Teng Karasek will be an alternate scheduler, for every other quarter.

### **Technology**

Judy reported that there will be future technology enhancements on scheduling and leaders will be able to see what has already been scheduled.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

**Next Meeting: October 1, 2019, 6:00 – 9:00, Earthfare, 1856 Hendersonville Rd.**