**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Meeting**

**Monday, February 10, 2020**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

David Siegfried (Sig)

Mike Duffy

Tom Carr

Vytas Marciulionis (Vic)

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

The conference call commenced at 7:04 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Approval of Minutes – The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 19, 2020 Board Meeting.
4. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Treasurer report: Janet and Chip

Chip reported that SMSKN had $5,072 in its checking account and approximately $13,000 in CDs. The club received payment for 2 memberships in January, and has had minimal expenses so far this year.

* 1. Pool session update: MASKGI, PP, Bath

Janet and Vic said they had been to two recent pool sessions organized by MASKGI/Portland Paddle. They observed that the pool seemed crowded with kayaks, which hindered maneuvering and technique practice.

In light of this, Janet suggested that the Board have another look at organizing separate pool sessions for SMSKN members. She said she would talk to Riverton pool management about having SMSKN pool sessions on days when neither MASKGI or Portland Paddle are having theirs, and will find out how much it might cost. She said Zach of Portland Paddle will sponsor SMSKN sessions with Portland Paddle’s insurance. Janet will contact Cheri Perry to see if the Skills Committee would be interested in managing these sessions. Vic and Mike volunteered to take charge of one session each. Participation will be limited to 10 members so that there is ample room for technique practice. Signup will be through the SMSKN Meetup app. The sessions will be at no cost to SMSKN members.

On pool sessions in Bath, Janet said she would call and see if it would be possible for SMSKN to reserve the pool for a skills session.

1. New Business
   1. Participant Agreement Modification: contract from Pinnacle

Janet shared a proposal from Pinnacle Risk Strategies to modify the SMSKN individual Participant Agreement (which Pinnacle wrote) so that groups of paddlers could sign one agreement. That way, trip organizers could bring one agreement to be signed by any paddlers who did not complete and sign individual agreements.

Pinnacle estimates the work would take 1-2 hours and would charge $200/hr. Vic moved, and Chip seconded, that the Board approve expenditure of SMSKN funds for this purpose, provided that Pinnacle advise the Board in advance if it determined that the final cost of the work would exceed $400. The Board approved the motion unanimously.

* 1. February Meeting Topic

Janet reported that she is working on a February monthly membership meeting on Cold Water Immersion presented by an instructor from Maine Maritime Academy. MITA has indicated that it would partner with SMSKN on this event.

Janet will advise the Board whether the MMA instructor is available to make the presentation in February. If not, the Board needs to have a backup program ready. Sig volunteered to work with her on a contingency program for February.

* 1. Meetup Payment Issues

Janet reported that the Meetup website is still having problems processing payment by members for SMSKN dues; some members who have tried to pay have not been registered as paid by Meetup. 28 members are listed as not having paid their annual dues. Tom volunteered to contact these members and find out whether or not they had tried to pay their dues through Meetup.

1. February Goal Topic: HOW TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP

Board members put forward various ideas to publicize SMSKN’s presence and activities in order to encourage new members to join. After discussion, they winnowed these ideas down to four groups:

* + 1. Get a vendor table and distribute SMSKN brochures at paddling/boating related events, including the Kittery Trading Post, LLBean PaddleSport Weekend, New England Paddle Show at UNH, Maine Boat Builders Show, Old Town Factory sale, and any other such events that we come across.
    2. Place brochures at kayak sales shops and guide/outfitter locations such as LL Bean, Paddle Maine in Brunswick, etc.
    3. Increase SMSKN’s presence on social media, including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
    4. Partner with MITA, AMC, and other like-minded organizations, with links on their websites, cross-listing of events and activities, and joint planning/coordination.

1. Closure and Action Items.

a. Pool Sessions: Janet will contact Riverton and Bath pools, ascertain costs and when SMSKN could schedule sessions. She will contact Cheri Perry regarding Skills Committee interest in providing instruction for these sessions. Vic and Mike will take charge of one session each at Riverton pool, once they are scheduled.

b. Participation Agreement Modification: Janet will tell Ben of Pinnacle Risk Strategies to go ahead with the work, with the proviso to notify the Board in advance if the cost will exceed $400.

c. February Meeting Topic: Janet and Sig will come up with a backup program if the Cold Water Immersion program cannot be done in February.

d. Meetup website membership payment issue: Tom will contact members who are listed as not having paid dues.

e. Measures to Increase Membership:

i. Events: Janet will contact Kittery Trading Post, Tom to contact LLBean re PaddleSports Weekend 2020.

ii. Vendors: Sig and Vic will contact kayak/paddle shops and guides/outfitters.

iii. Social Media: Vic will set up an SMSKN Instagram account.

iv. Partnering/cross-listing: Janet will contact MITA and AMC.

f. Recruiting member volunteers: Janet proposed that the Board put on the agenda for next month’s meeting: how to recruit existing members as volunteers to help the Board carry out action items to meet SMSKN’s goals. She undertook to get a newsletter out to the membership which would among other things encourage members to volunteer to help out.

The Board conference call concluded at 8:08 p.m.