**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Monday, January 11, 2021**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

David Siegfried (Sig)

John Contas

Tom Carr

Vytas Marciulionis

Greg Fergin (Recorder)

The Board call commenced at 7:07 p.m.

1. Welcome: Janet welcomed all members to the first Board session of 2021 and introduced John Contas as a new Board member.
2. Approval of Minutes: Board members unanimously approved the minutes of the December 14, 2020 Board call.
3. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee – Sig reported that due to the continuing prevalence of COVID-19, the committee had not scheduled any activities beyond the January and March pool sessions. He hopes to resume regular skill sessions again this summer. He will check with other committee members to see who wants to remain on the committee and consider recruiting new members.
      2. Financial – Chip: SMSKN had $506 in net revenue in 2020, a little lower than usual due to the one-time expense of hiring a lawyer to draft a group Participant Agreement. At year’s end SMSKN accounts held $13,300 in CDs and $5,400 in checking. Year-end membership totaled 103.
   2. Pool Session Status – Sig and Vytas

Sig reported that there had been a good response for the two SMSKN pool sessions schedules on January 17. Sig and Vic will be there to manage both sessions. Janet commented that word about our pool sessions has gotten out: she had queries from five whitewater paddlers asking if they could come. She said they could not, unless it turned out that the sessions were not full on the day of event. They would also need to pay $20 per event. She based her response on our mission to support the sea kayaking community, not other paddlers in general. There are other opportunities (e.g., in Bath and Biddeford) for pool sessions open to all. Sig asked Janet to let him know if she knew who would be coming so he could expect them.

* 1. Website Update:

Janet listed recent updates that had been made to the SMSKN website, including the new online process for members to sign the Participant Agreement (PA). Now the club needed a way to make sure all participants in SMSKN trips have signed the online PA. New members get asked to sign it automatically as part of the membership registration process, but we don’t yet have a systematic way to tell whether existing members have signed it. After discussion, it was decided that Vic would extract a list from the website database and download it to a Google sheet that he would update every two weeks and distribute to trip organizers, so they know who has already signed the online PA and who still needs to sign.

* 1. Monthly Meetings Status

January: Maine Traverse with Janet: scheduled for January 20.

February: Maine Coastal Heritage Trust – Chip organizing

March: Justine Curgenven – Jenna

April: 10 Easy Trips – Greg: working with Marcy Leger.

May: Organizing a SMSKN Trip - Janet

Janet pointed out that it was up to each meeting organizer to post these meetings on Meetup. Janet said she would designate John and Greg as event organizers in Meetup to enable them to do this.

1. New Business
   1. Trip Catalog: Greg reported that he is working with Marcy Leger on an updated, simplified process for SMSKN members to post trips they have done on a page on the SMSKN website, as a resource for other members planning trips.
   2. Portland Maritime Group: Janet said that Harley Lewin of Nanuq Kayaks had reached out to Portland Paddle, SMSKN, MITA on behalf of Josh Hale of Portland Maritime Group, which has acquired a landing craft capable of taking people and their boats to islands or remote launch sites. Josh will show the landing craft on January 28, at 11 a.m. at Maine Wharf (where Nanuq is). Chip, Vic, and Greg expressed interest in attending.
   3. SMSKN Goals. Janet reviewed goals from 2020 that are worth continuing, including getting more trips posted, improving the website, and training for new members in organizing trips. She asked Board members for their thoughts on goals that the Board should consider. It was decided to brainstorm new ideas for increasing active membership and vibrancy during the February Board call.
   4. Skills committee activities during COVID: Sig asked Board members for ideas on what activities the Skills Committee could promote while the pandemic continues. Members suggested sessions on off-water skills, including navigation, making a paddle, repairs/keel stripping, and trip planning.
2. Closure and Action Items

Vic to make and periodically update a list of members who have signed the online Participant Agreement and post it in a Google Sheets document.

Board members to post the monthly member meetings they are organizing on Meetup once they have settled on a date.

Janet to designate John and Greg as Event Organizers on Meetup.

Agenda item for February Board call: brainstorming ideas for increasing membership and activity.

The Board call concluded at 8:22 p.m.

Next call: Monday, February 8, 2021