**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Monday, February 8, 2021**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

David Siegfried (Sig)

John Contas

Tom Carr

Vytas Marciulionis (Vic)

Minutes prepared by Greg Fergin based on Janet’s notes of the call.

The Board Call commenced at 7:00 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes of the January 11 Board Call.
3. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee: Sig reached out to members of the Skills Committee to see if they were still interested in participating. Cheri Perry and Maurik Holtrop will continue as members and meet with Sig in the next few weeks to discuss activities. Janet offered to contact the entire membership to see if others are interested in joining the committee. Vic wondered whether SMSKN members would be interested in online courses to improve their paddling skills, and will forward info on a British subscription service that offers paddling courses.
      2. Financial: SMSKN’s financials are unchanged from January. Janet reported that she had gotten a flurry of Meetup messages reporting that members were leaving the group. She contacted one such member, who denied leaving. The problem appears to be a Meetup software glitch. Janet will take up the problem with Meetup.
   2. Pool Session Status – Sig and Vytas: The initial pool sessions hosted by SMSKN were well-attended and received positive feedback from members. The same members have been showing up each time. The session day and time seem to work for members.
   3. Website Update – Janet and Vytas: The SMSKN website is hosted by Jenna’s personal server, and plans to post video recordings of monthly membership meetings and other SMSKN archival materials on the website would create significant space issues. To avoid this problem, Vic proposed using an outside service with a link to the website via a tab. John said that his paddling club in California used Google Drive to post Zoom recordings, although presenters requested that the recordings be removed after 30 days. Janet noted that Justine Curgenven, the presenter for SMSKN’s upcoming March meeting, requested that her presentation be taken down after a month.
   4. Trip Reports Update: The Board discussed the idea of having members post descriptive narratives about their trips on the SMSKN website as a way of encouraging members’ interest in paddling. Vic drew attention to trip reports on Portland Paddle’s website as a model. The Board agreed to encourage members to post trip reports on a voluntary basis.
   5. Monthly Meetings Status

November 18, 2020: On-water Photography, by Tom Allen - done

December 16, 2020: Cold Water Paddling, by Mike Moloney USCG and

Zack Anchors, Portland Paddle - done

January 28: Planning and Completing a Maine Traverse: Janet Robinson and

Suzanne Blackburn - done

February 18: MCHT –Tim Glidden – (Chip) - posted

March: Justine Curvengen – (Jenna)

April: 10 Easy Trips – (Greg)

May: Organizing a SMSKN Trip – (Janet)

* 1. Review of 2021 Goals: The Board returned to last month’s discussion of goals for the year, and confirmed the following goals:
     1. Website Expansion
     2. New Member and Organizer Training
     3. Increasing Club Vibrancy and Active Membership
     4. Skills Training in Pandemic Conditions.

1. New Business
   1. Membership Coordinator: John volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Membership Coordinator for the organization. Vic will enable John to have access to the membership database so that before each SMSKN paddling event, John can check in advance whether participants have signed the online Participant Agreement. He will then notify trip organizers of any participants who have not signed the online agreement, so that organizers can get them to sign hard copy Participant Agreements. Janet will post the PDF version of the Participant Agreement on the website so that it can be downloaded and printed from there. Trip organizers should print copies to take on trips so that paddlers who have not previously signed PA’s can complete them.
   2. Newsletter: The Board discussed topics to be included in the next newsletter to the membership, settling on: completion of Participant Agreements, trip reports, soliciting new members for the Skills Committee, and describing the new position of Membership Coordinator.
   3. BRAINSTORMING: Increasing Club Vibrancy and Active Membership – deferred to the March meeting.
2. Closure and Action Items

Janet will talk to Meetup about the glitch that is erroneously deleting SMSKN members.

Vic to work on a way to store Zoom membership meeting recordings and other SMSKN documents/archives in a storage site that is linked to the SMSKN website.

Board members to set dates for upcoming monthly membership meetings and post them on Meetup.

Janet to send a newletter update to the SMSKN membership.

The Board Call concluded at when?? p.m.

Next call: Monday, March 8, 2021