**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Monday, March 8, 2021**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

David Siegfried (Sig)

Jenna Ginsburg

John Contas

Tom Carr

Vytas Marciulionis (Vic)

Greg Fergin (Recorder)

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

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes: Board members unanimouApproved unanimously
3. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee: Sig reported that the committee has decided to do weekly near-shore skill sessions starting in May. Cheri, Maurik, and Cathy are participating as members of the committee. They are discussing content and subjects for zoom or off-water sessions as well. They will be meeting again this week.

* + 1. Financial: Janet said she had reported the glitch that was wrongly cancelling memberships on the Meetup page, and the problem appears to have been solved. Chip said that SMSKN got paid for a flurry of 16 memberships in recent days. The club has $5,144 in checking its checking account and $13,214 in CDs. He recounted that the club typically takes in about $1,800 in membership revenues and spends about $1000-$1200 a year in recurring costs, including pool sessions, Meetup fees, a Zoom subscription, the SMSKN web page, and trainers for skill sessions. He questioned the need for continuing to pay for a post office box, since the club gets very little mail and uses Janet’s address for the IRS and his (Chip’s) address for the annual report to the Maine Secretary of State. Janet agreed that the post box should be discontinued.
  1. Pool Session Recommendations: Sig reported that a total of 12 SMSKN members attended one or more of the pool sessions that SMSKN organized this winter. Vic said that in the future they are considering organizing some kind of guided pool session.
  2. Website Update: Vic confirmed that he had added the Participant Agreement to the SMSKN website. He is looking to add the videos of Zoom membership meetings to new page with a link to the recorded programs.
  3. Trip Catalog Update: Greg said he would talk to Marcy Leger about SMSKN’s previous effort to create a trip catalog. He will have a description of what the club plans to do ready for announcement at the April membership meeting.
  4. Monthly Meetings Status

November: On-water Photography, by Tom Allen – done, recorded

December: Cold Water Paddling, by Mike Moloney USCG and Zack Anchors, Portland Paddle - done

January: Planning and Completing a Maine Traverse: Janet Robinson and Suzanne Blackburn – done, recorded

February: MCHT –Tim Glidden – (Chip) – done, recorded

March: Justine Curgenven – (Jenna) THURSDAY, MARCH 18

April: 10 Easy Trips in Casco Bay – (Greg) – Tuesday April 20.

May: Organizing a SMSKN Trip – (Janet )

1. New Business
   1. SMSKN Support of MITA, MCHT: Janet observed that MITA and MCHT are good partners of SMSKN: they give us access to islands that they manage, and MITA lets us use their office for meetings and publicizes our events to their members. At present SMSKN is a business member of MITA, for a fee of $100 a year. Chip noted that in the past, SMSKN had contributed $200 to MCHT for each of its capital campaigns for The Goslings and Clapboard Island. Janet proposed that the Board consider increasing its contribution to MITA and contribute a similar amount to MCHT. Tom pointed out that the next level of business membership for MITA is $250, in return for which SMSKN members would get 20% off the cost of individual MITA memberships. Board members agreed that both MITA and MCHT are valuable organizations for our members, but expressed concern about the cost of increased ongoing contributions to both organizations, given our own limited resources. Board members suggested soliciting voluntary individual contributions from our members as a possible alternative. After discussion, the Board decided to continue its business membership in MITA at the current level of $100 a year, and to make a $200 one-time grant to MCHT for its capital campaign for Little Whaleboat Island.

* 1. SMSKN Stewardship of Little Birch Island: Janet pointed out that Deidre St. Louis was the MITA steward of Little Birch Island, but Deidre is now living in Virginia (though she visits Maine in the summer). She asked whether a Board member would be willing to take Deidre’s place as steward, which would entail periodic visits to inspect the site and pick up trash as necessary. After discussion, Janet said she would ask Deidre if she wants to keep doing it on behalf of SMSKN.
  2. BRAINSTORM - Increasing Club Vibrancy and Active Membership: Janet pointed out that coming to a new paddling season, the club needed to think about how to get members more engaged and excited about being a part of the group. John observed that a club he used to belong to would usually hang out together after paddling, increasing a sense of camaraderie. Similarly, Sig suggested that participants in a paddling trip get together afterward to do a joint trip report. John suggested that as COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed, SMSKN could schedule picnics, including a gear swap. Tom suggested that the club could also do gear swaps once it resumes in-person club meetings. Chip suggested that as evenings get longer in the summer, Board members could each organize an evening paddle with a social event afterwards. Janet thanked Board members for their ideas, and said that for the time being, she would leave the Zoom session open for conversation after regular monthly membership meetings.

1. Closure and Action Items

* Chip to stop SMSKN’s post office box subscription.
* Vic to continue work on posting monthly membership meeting recordings on the SMSKN website.
* Janet to continue SMSKN’s $100 business membership in MITA and organize a $200 contribution to MCHT’s Little Whaleboat Island campaign.

The Board call concluded at 8:30 p.m.

Next call: Monday, April 12, 2021