**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Monday, April 12, 2021**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

Daniel Siegfried (Sieg)

Jenna Ginsberg

John Contas

Tom Carr

Greg Fergin (Recorder)

The Board call commenced at 7:06 p.m.

1. Welcome:
2. Approval of Minutes: Approved as amended.
3. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee – Sieg reported that most of the summertime weekly skills water meetings are in final draft form. The first two of these sessions will go up on the SMSKN Meetup site this week. The committee has kicked around ideas for speakers as well, including a session on weather by John Huth. John asked whether upcoming activities would be visible on the website as well as Meetup. Jenna said it is possible to do a link to Meetup on the SMSKN website. Janet will confer with Vick on how to do this.
      2. Financial – Chip reported that the SMSKN CD had $13,280.11 and the checking account $4,689.31 at the end of March. Between January 1 and April 3, SMSKN enrolled 43 members, compared to 19 for the same period last year: 4 in January, 21 in February, and 18 in March. Janet commented that SMSKN’s full schedule of activities on its Meetup page appeared to be drawing new members. As agreed at the last Board call, Chip cancelled the club’s post office box. Janet asked whether Chip had instituted a new accounting program to replace the outdated Quickbooks in use now. He said he still needs to research this.
      3. Membership Coordinator – John reported on implementation of the new system to make sure that paddlers who sign up for a trip have signed the online Participant Agreement (PA). When paddle trips are posted, he checks on who has signed the PA, and when a person hasn’t signed, he sends a message to them and notifies the trip organizer. the participant. Paddlers have been accommodating, and the system is working well. Janet noted that when new members join through the SMSKN Meetup page, she doesn’t activate their membership until they say they’ve signed it.
   2. Website Update:
      1. Archive page – meeting videos, historical material: up on the website.
      2. PA pdf posting: up on the website.
      3. NSPN Trip Planning Document: Janet reported that the North Shore Paddling Network (NSPN), a Massachusetts group is interested in coordinating its Maine paddling events with SMSKN. NSPN said it is happy to let us post their 75-page trip planning doc. Jenna wondered whether NSPN, whose website is limited to its members, would be okay with our posting its document on our open website. Janet said she would confirm this with NSPN.
   3. Route Library Update – Greg demonstrated the use of a Google Sheets document he and Janet had adapted from an old SMSKN spreadsheet. Members who have organized trips can add data about their trips under each of the headings, for use by other members planning trips. The SMSKN trip planning section of the website would have a link to the read-only document. Sieg offered to create a Google Forms documents that would enable trip planners to submit data on their trips to SMSKN to be added to the Google Sheet. Janet asked Greg and Sieg to work with Vick on finalizing the trip planning documents and getting them posted on the website.
   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 Curvengen – (Jenna) done: Thursday, March 18

April: 10 Easy Trips on Casco Bay – (Greg) – POSTED – April 13, 2021

May: Organizing a SMSKN Trip – (Janet). To be held Wednesday or Thursday of the 3rd or 4th week.

1. New Business
   1. Summer picnic: Janet proposed that SMSKN host a members’ picnic, along with a gear swap in July or August. Jenna suggested that it be held at Winslow Park, coinciding with half to high tide so that members could access the water from the beach or ramp. She also suggested that the club provide a main protein dish, with participants contributing side dishes and bringing a donation (e.g., canned goods) for charity. John suggested asking Tom Allen to film the event and posting it on the website to advertise the club’s social activities. Sig suggested reaching out to SMSKN members to help plan the event. Janet said she would do so.

b. Other summer club activities? Jenna suggested doing an evening paddle instead of monthly meeting. John volunteered to host one in June, Greg will do one from Falmouth Town Landing in July, and Janet will host one in August. Jenna observed that Sandy point beach was a good launching point, as was East End beach. The latter could be a joint event with Portland Paddle.

c. NSPN – closer coordination: NSPN has asked for a SMSKN point of contact for its September 10-12 Lobster Buoy Camp excursion. Greg volunteered to be the point of contact and will coordinate with Gary York.

1. Closure and Action Items

Janet to consult with Vick on putting a link on the SMSKN website to the SMSKN Meetup site for club events.

Janet to check with NSPN on posting NSPN’s trip planning manual on the SMSKN website.

Greg to work with Sieg and Vick on getting the SMSKN trip planning documents finalized and posted on the SMSKN website.

Janet to reach out to club membership for volunteers to help plan the SMSKN summer picnic.

John, Greg, and Janet to organize evening paddles/social events in June, July, and August.

Greg to contact Gary York as the SMSKN coordinator for the September joint NSPN-SMSKN kayak camping trip at Lobster Buoy camp.

The Board call concluded at 8:13 p.m.

Next call: Monday, May 10, 2021