**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Monday, September 20, 2021**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

David Siegfried (Sieg)

John Contas

Vytas Marciulionis (Vic)

Greg Fergin (Recorder)

The Board call commenced at 7:05 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes: Janet will send out the minutes of the August 16 board call later.
3. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee – Sieg reported that the current members of the Skills Committee are Liz Johnson, Cheri Perry, Cathy Kimball, and Maurik Holtrop. The committee discussed having skills meetings for members via Zoom, but had no specific ideas yet. Janet previewed the September 22 members’ meeting presentation on a Casco Bay Rescue Analysis. She pointed out that SMSKN member John Herlihy had learned how to make a Mayday radio call at a SMSKN members’ event.
      2. Financial – Chip reported that the SMSKN checking account has $6,606 cash and the CD account $13,290. 54 SMSKN members paid their annual dues this quarter, and 138 members have paid dues so far this year to date. Janet said the club had received a bill from Microsoft for Jenna’s web site, which still hosts the SMSKN website. Vic noted that if SMSKN would like to move from Jenna’s website to its own website, need to find a new platform for it.
   2. Website Update –Vytas
      1. Upcoming events updating – Vytas said that listing upcoming SMSKN events on our website has not been a problem for our events. Integration of MITA events is more challenging. Janet noted that she is on MITA’s technical review team now, and that MITA is verty interested in how people use their site.
      2. Trip Library Link – Greg had nothing new to report. Janet said she would keep this item on the SMSKN agenda so we don’t forget to take it up again.
   3. Route Library Update – Greg – deferred
4. New Business
   1. Fall Zoom programs – Janet noted that SMSKN’s starting this week with the Mayday rescue analysis program. She said Tom Allen’s video of the rescue got 15,000 hits on Youtube.

Board members discussed the following ideas for programs.

* Marine wildlife: Greg suggested a program by someone who could talk knowledgably about the kinds of wildlife kayakers are likely to encounter on the water. Sieg observed that several of his friends are marine biologists, and he could check with them for suggestions. Janet suggested that this could be a program for October if we can identify and recruit an appropriate speaker.
* Vytas suggested a program on Sea Kayaking skills certification, and how to become a Maine Registered Guide. Janet said there is a big shortage of guides at present. Levels of certification for kayaking skills. BCU/ACA. Sieg to talk about skills training that Skills Committee is organizing.
* Chip suggested something on the history of Casco Bay. Janet said Zach Anchors of Portland Paddle is working on a dissertation on a similar topic.
* Janet noted that SMSKN did a program on the contents of a paddling emergency kit two years ago. This could be done virtually with a good camera.
* Janet recalled that a while back SMSKN members had a session with the Coast Guard shooting off their expiring flares. Janet will contact Jim Vicenzi (who was president the last time SMSKN did this) to find out how this event was organized.
* Weather: Rather than just another presentation, SMSKN could get a group together to do online course, and maintain a continuing study group on this, as well as kayak navigation. Janet pointed out that Suzanne Blackburn teaches navigation for Portland Paddle.
* Choosing a kayak – considerations. John and Vytas agreed to work on this topic for a spring presentation.
* Arctic/Antarctic trip: Janet will reach out to Dan Carr to see if he would be willing to do a presentation on his trip. John offered to check with Tim Granfield (on an Antarctic trip with Justine Curgenven) or John Oltz, Sea Kayak New England.com, who was on a kayaking trip to Iceland. This could be a good topic for a November members’ meeting.

b. Additional funds to MCHT for Little Whaleboat: John reported that Alicia Heyburn had said MCHT had succeeded in raising sufficient funds for to purchase Little Whaleboat Island.

c. SMSKN MITA island – Deidre St. Louis had volunteered to adopt a MITA Island for SMSKN and picked Cow Island. SMSKN now needs to get members to sign up for a month of monitoring and stewardship. The next step should be a newsletter from Janet to SMSKN members explaining Deirdre’s role, and inviting members to sign up. Sieg suggested planning SMSKN paddling trips for this purpose, and wondered if SMSKN members would be able to use a MITA skiff for this purpose? In relation to MITA, Janet reported that SMSKN Board member Tom Carr got a MITA Spirit of Trail of Award at the MITA annual general meeting recently.

1. Closure and Action Items: Board members to follow up on Zoom member meeting ideas.

The Board call concluded at 8:35 p.m.

Next call: **Monday, October 11,2021**