**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Monday, October 11, 2021**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

David Siegfried

John Contas

Tom Carr

Greg Fergin (Reporter)

The Board call commenced at 7:08 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes: The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 20 Board call.
3. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee – Sig reported that the October 6 surf readiness session was well attended with 16 participants. The committee had initially planned to hold a Part II with actual playing in surf, but most people at the session were not yet ready for real-life surfing conditions. Most of them will need another flat-water training at least before they are ready. Janet suggested having another session with smaller waves, set up as a paddling trip rather than a skills session.
      2. Financial – Chip was traveling, but provided third quarter financial statements showing that SMSKN has $6,601 in its checking account and $13,293 in CDs. Janet noted that SMSKN now has 184 members.
   2. Website Update:
      1. Participant Agreement Update: Janet said she had modified the online Participant Agreement (PA) to include the participant’s full name, and sent the revised version to our legal advisor, Green Light, for review. Meetup’s listing of some members by first name only is a problem for determining whether members have signed the PA. John suggested a message to the entire membership asking members to enable messaging through the Meetup app so we can get in touch with them.
      2. Trip Library Link – deferred
   3. Route Library Update – Greg – deferred . Janet suggested that Greg work with Vytas to get this set up.
4. New Business

a. Cross-posted trips: Janet said she was uncomfortable with recent situations in which SMSKN members posted trips set up by other organizations (NSPN, MOAC) without coordinating with the SMSKN leadership. Janet reported that she had reached out to a recreation attorney to ascertain SMSKN’s liability in such situations, and set up a call for 5pm Thursday Oct 14. Tom will join Janet for the call. Janet asked for the Board’s permission to get legal advice on this issue and spend up to $700 to pay for it. Board members agreed. Sieg suggested that she also ask the lawyer whether SMSKN has any liability when something is posted on our website, or one of our trips posted on another organization’s website.

In discussing the issue, Board members agreed that there needs to be better coordination and clearer communication when trips are cross-posted on more than one organization’s website or Meetup page. It should be clearly specified which organization has the lead and what its requirements are for event registration and signing of liability waivers. SMSKN members who join trips organized by other organizations should sign SMSKN’S PA as well as the other organization’s liability waiver, and members of other organizations should sign SMSKN’s waiver if they join a SMSKN-organized trip. This needs to be clearly communicated to SMSKN members who post other organizations’ trips on the SMSKN Meetup page. John questioned the practice of disabling Meetup’s RSVP function for trips led by other organizations. Other Board members pointed out that sometimes trip organizers need to do this because they want to check paddlers’ capabilities before allowing them on a trip. Sieg also suggested that trip organizers need to be empowered to refuse to allow people who just show up for a trip without registering.

b. Program List and Scheduling

* Marine wildlife – Sieg and Greg. Sieg reported that he had reached out to Maine Audubon and Freeport Wild Bird Supply for possible speakers, but had not heard back. Janet said it was important to get a speaker with good credentials, and suggested deferring this topic until November to provide more time to identify and recruit a speaker. She also said Moulton Avery of the National Center for Cold Water Safety had contacted her with an offer to do a presentation on cold-water safety. She will ascertain if this could be done in late October.
* December: SMSKN end-of-year party and annual general meeting.
* Dan Carr – Iceland Trip – Janet confirmed that Dan is willing to do this presentation in January or February.
* History of Casco Bay – Janet will ask Zack Anchors to present. March/April?
* Buying a sea kayak – boat design and features - John Contas and Vytas. Spring.

Other ideas:

* Sea Kayaking Skills Certification – Vytas and Janet.
* Kayaking repair and emergency kits – interactive program.
* Flare shoot with the US Coast Guard?
* Weather training
* Navigation – Janet questioned whether it would be useful for SMSKN to have a navigation session, since Portland Paddle offers sea kayak navigation courses.

c. Board Elections: Janet asked Board members think about wether theyt want to continue as Board members, and to let Janet know whether they want to stay on the board or leave. She also asked Board members to think about people who might be good to add to the Board, which under SMSKN bylaws can have up to 12 members.

1. Closure and Action Items

* Janet and Tom to participate in call with recreation attorney on October 14.
* Board members to continue to work on proposals for monthly membership meetings throughout the winter and spring.
* Board members to let Janet know whether they want to continue as Board members, and to propose new Board members.

The Board call concluded at 8:26 p.m.

Next call: **Monday, November 8,2021**