**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Monday, December 20, 2021**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

David Siegfried (Sieg)

Jenna Ginsberg

John Contas

John Haile (Skills Committee member, presenting on Skills Committee 2022 activity plan)

Vytas Marciulionis (Vic)

Greg Fergin (Recording Secretary)

The Board Call commenced at 7:05pm.

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes: The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the November 8 Board call.
3. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee – John Haile summarized the committee’s activity plan for 2022. It will continue the pattern of previous years: pool sessions, water sessions, and enlisting professionals for expert courses. In this case, it will be John Carmody, who has offered his course on Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning to SMSKN members half-price. New initiatives include the first member survey since 2018; theme paddling events to practice skills learned in skills sessions; and mentoring (experienced paddlers to pair with novice paddlers or first-time trip organizers); and a Wilderness First Aid Afloat course with Nancy Zane on January 22. Sieg said a new survey of members is necessary to learn the new demographics of SMSKN after many new members joined in 2020-21. Vic asked about the possibility of lending sea kayaks to members who do not have them. Sieg suggested creating a list of members who are willing to lend their kayaks to others. A novice skill session would be a good time to test this concept.
      2. Financial – Chip could not attend the meeting, so there was no financial report.
   2. Website Update –Vytas
      1. Cold Water Safety Page: this presentation is on the SMSKN website now.
      2. Participant Agreement Update: Janet reported that an attorney is working on amendments to the Participant Agreement (PA), including language on joint liability for paddling trips posted by another club, and language stating that when members renew their SMSKN membership, that step constitutes re-affirmation of their agreement to the PA.
   3. Facebook page closure: Sig reported that Cherri Perry agrees with the decision to close the SMSKN Facebook page, and with shifting the videos on the Facebook page to the SMSKN website. Sig will send a link to the videos to Vic so that Vic can move the videos to the website.

4. New Business

a. Annual General Meeting Agenda: Janet summarized the draft agenda for the AGM, noting that it included a proposal for a bylaw change to have Board members serve for two years instead of the current one-year term. Jenna pointed out that the bylaws can be changed by the Board as well as by members at an AGM. The Board discussed the possibility of staggering two-year terms so that half the board is re-elected each year, in order to maintain continuity and institutional memory.

b. Summer party: Janet noted that 2022 is the 30th anniversary of the founding of SMSKN. She suggested that the club celebrate the occasion with a big picnic, gear swap, safety corner, and demo day. Other ideas might be to invite past presidents and offer some swag with the SMSKN logo annotated for the 30th anniversary. The Board discussed various possible venues for the event. Winslow Park would be good if it allows group events this year (unlike 2020 and 2021). If so, the club will need to start planning after New Year. Crescent Beach, Range Pond, Sebago State Park might alternatives, as all of them have facilities for group events.

c. Program List and Proposed Scheduling

* December: Annual Meeting by Zoom on December 30th.
* January: Sea Kayaking Skills Certification – Janet said she had talked to three people about presenting regarding their groups’ skill certification procedures, including Suzanne Blackburn about Registered Maine Guide’s sea kayaking classification; Bob Myron on the American Canoeing Association, and Steve Maynard on British Canoeing.
* February: Paddling in Iceland by Dan Carr. Janet is coordinating.
* March: Sea Kayak Design and Purchasing. John Contas and Vytas handling.
* April: Janet suggested a new topic for the April membership meeting on Safety Gear and Practices. She proposed that the club contact Nate Hansen to present on radio use, float plans, gear, etc. Jenna said that she knows a lot about radio programs and was willing to present on this topic as well as organize the session.
* May: Jenna suggested a program on kayak camping. Sig added that it would be good to include a segment on on-water camp food. It would be good to get a professional or very experienced member to make the presentation. The Board will designate someone to organize this session at the next Board call.
* June (early): picnic and boat try-outs and gear swap.
  1. Presidential transition: Janet informed the Board that she wants to step down as President at the end of 2022. The Board discussed procedures and timing for the transition, including the idea of having a President-designate start in September 2021 so that the incoming President can participate in the full planning cycle for 2023. Janet encouraged Board members to think about good candidates for President.

1. Closure and Action Items
   * + Sig will send a link to the videos to Vic so that Vic can move the videos to the website.
     + Board members to think about good candidates for President and contact Janet with ideas.

The Board call concluded at 8:48pm.

Next call: **TBD**