**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday, December 17, 2022**

**Merrill Memorial Library, Yarmouth**

Participating: 39 Members

1. Welcome: SMSKN President Janet Robinson called the annual general meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. She recognized two founding members of SMSKN, Lee Bumstead and Jon Snow.
2. Review of 2022

Janet described the wide range of activities that SMSKN held during the year, including:

* 56 paddling trips organized by members;
* 16 meetings on the water in which members practiced and upgraded their paddling skills/
* 11 wintertime pool sessions for skills practice and improvement;
* Initiation of the Cow Island MITA stewardship program by SMSKN members;
* 9 membership meetings and presentations on Zoom;
* A SMSKN 30th anniversary party at Winslow Park;

Janet emphasized that amidst all these activities, the club’s most important focus was on building friendship and camaraderie among members.

1. Skills Committee Report

David Siegfried (Sieg) said the eight members of the Skills Committee worked to create activities that build members’ foundational skills (control, bracing) and provide an opportunity to pursue more advanced skills (handling dynamic water, rock gardening, and surfing). In 2022 the committee organized the following activities:

—pool sessions in Portland and Bath (as mentioned by Janet)

—weekly peer training sessions in May and June in various places along the coast.

In addition, the committee provided an opportunity for SMSKN members to join sessions hosted by professional trainers. The trainers manage registration and payment for these sessions, and SMSKN members enjoy a 20 percent discount off class fees (10 percent provided by the trainers and a 10 percent subsidy paid by SMSKN).

1. MITA Island Stewardship Committee Report

Deirdre St. Louis described how SMSKN had volunteered to adopt Cow Island in Casco Bay as a Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) island overseen by the club. During 2022 ten SMSKN members made monthly visits to the island to clean up debris and trash, interact with visitors, promote low impact use, and report their work to MITA staff. The committee will meet during the winter to discuss 2023 activities and whether to add a new MITA island for stewardship. Deirdre encouraged SMSKN membership to message her through the Meetup app if they are interested in participating in the stewardship committee. Janet thanked Deirdre for leading the committee, and suggested that members who are aware of islands that might be candidates to become MITA islands contact MITA.

1. New in 2022

Janet reported that SMSKN had established a gear closet of new equipment for members’ use for safety, including:

—5 loaner kayaking helmets;

— bright orange flourescent tape for paddles, kayaks and gear for enhanced visibility;

—gripper balls for spray skirts;

—Coast Guard boat ID labels;

—stick-on roof flashing for boat patching.

1. Admin Notes

Janet reminded members to change their personal settings on the Meetup app to receive notifications of SMSKN events and messages by e-mail. She also requested members to update their their attendance at SMSKN events on the Meetup app if they can’t attend an event, so that event organizers don’t expect them to be there.

1. Election of Board

Janet paid tribute to SMSKN Board members who are leaving the Board, Jenna Ginsberg and Joe Herlihy.

Janet said that the following Board members would continue in 2023:

—Chip Woodman, Treasurer;

—Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary;

—Janet Robinson, retiring President;

—John Contas, Membership Manager;

—Nananda Cole, At-Large member’

—Vytas Marciulionis, Webmaster.

Janet said the Board had nominated Glen Gordon and Tom Allen as new At-Large members. SMSKN members present at the AGM unanimously voted to elect them as Board members.

1. Election of President

Janet announced that she was retiring as President after three years. She said that the Board had nominated John Haile as new President. She read a statement by John (who was not able to attend the meeting) outlining his goals as SMSKN President if elected by the membership. Members present unanimously voted to elect John as new President.

1. Closing

On behalf of the Board, Tom Allen presented a gift to Janet for her three years of service as SMSKN President.

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 8:02 p.m.