**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Wednesday, March 9, 2022**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

Jenna Ginsberg

Joe Herlihy

John Contas

John Haile

Nananda Col

Greg Fergin (Recording Secretary)

The Board call commenced at 7:35pm.

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes: The Board unanimously approved the minutes as amended.
3. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee: John Haile reported that Bates professor Dyk Eusden is offering to SMSKN a kayaking trip on September 11, 2022, circling Yarmouth Island. He will talk about the geology of Maine coast during the trip. The cost to the club would be $150. Eusden could take up to 12 paddlers along with two registered Maine guides (John and Tom Allen).

John said he would also like to set up a birding paddle with a knowledgeable birder. Nananda suggested Turl (sp?) Duncan, and Janet proposed Bob Dawson. John asked for Duncan’s contact info. Nananda suggested that a birding paddle could be connected with a paddling trip to Monhegan Island, where Duncan will be staying. John said the Skills Committee is promoting these kind of trips as a hook to get people paddling.

John also reported that the mentoring program now has eight mentors, along with two persons who have asked to be mentored. The committee will send a questionnaire to prospective mentors to learn their skills and interests.

The Board discussed ways of enhancing communication and coordination between the Board and the Skills Committee, especially in regard to the Skills Committee share of SMSKN’s 2022 budget.

* + 1. Bath Pool Session – Nananda reported that she had gotten in touch with “Sponge” at the Bath pool and set up a SMSKN pool session there on April 3, 4-5pm. Bob Arledge and John H. will help out. She will post the event on the SMSKN Meetup page later. Since the session is only one hour, people will need to come early and be ready to hit the pool on time. Nananda proposed that participants go out together for a meal afterwards. She said she had reached out to Bath paddlers, some of whom are not members, but interested in joining SMSKN. They can join the club for the same price as the pool session for non-members.
    2. Janet noted that SMSKN will hold its 2nd session at Riverton pool March 13.
    3. Financial – Chip: SMSKN received dues from 38 members during the first quarter to date (compared to 23 last year in the first quarter).
  1. Website Update: Janet reported that the SMSKN Facebook page is down at last.
  2. Programs:
* March - John C. and Vic have organized the March 24 presentation on what to consider in buying a kayak. John will post the event on the Meetup page March 10.
* April: Jenna said the program for April 20 is shaping up well. It will be mostly about paddling safety. She has friend in Canadian Coast Guard who will do the part of the presentation on radio use.
* May: Janet is organizing the program on how and why to post a trip for the club. Board members suggested that the process for posting trips should be made as easy as possible to encourage members to post trips. Their ideas included putting a template paddle plan on the SMSKN Meetup page that members can use for posting trips, and offering a prize or recognition to the member who leads the most trips. John C. suggested that the Board exercise some quality control over posted trip postings to make sure they include essential details. Janet thought this should be a topic for a separate discussion at some point.
  1. Selection of 2022 Goals from among February suggestions:

Janet extracted six goals from the Board’s February discussion annual goals:

* + 1. Encourage diversity in posted trips: beginners, younger people, trip focus, trip level.
    2. Website: integrate website and Meetup page better.
    3. Liaison with other groups tbc.
    4. Newsletter.
    5. Annual Retreat.
    6. Panel of Advisors.

After discussion, the Board decided to consolidate the goals and focus on two: 1) diversity in various forms; and 2) communications with members. Diversity would include increasing diversity in members as well as in the level and types of trips offered. The suggested goal of an annual retreat could be incorporated in this. Communications with members would include reviving the club newsletter as well as improving the website and website/Meetup integration.

* 1. Participant Agreement (PA) Update: John C. asked about the status of the PA. Janet said she will jog the lawyer working on it.

1. Closure and Action Items

* Nananda to give Turl (sp?) Duncan’s contact info to John H.
* Janet to get a status report from the lawyer updating the PA.

The Board call concluded at 8:40pm.

Next call: **Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 7 pm.**