**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

Jenna Ginsberg

Joe Herlihy

John Contas

Nananda Col

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

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

1. Welcome.
2. Approval of Minutes: The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 6, 2022 Board call.
3. Old Business:
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee: Janet reported that the Committee is talking to Nancy Zane about a budget and location for a Wilderness First Aid Afloat (WFAA) training session. She also said that the second Bath pool session was a roaring success. The cost of the session was partially offset by $160 in fees from the 8 participants.
      2. Financial Report: In Chip’s absence, Janet reported that SMSKN now has 215 members. The status of 43 members is listed as “awaiting payment” of dues. Janet said she had e-mailed these members and most have renewed their memberships immediately.
   2. MITA Island Adoption: Team leader Deidre St. Louis held a Zoom meeting with interested members and set up a task team to make monthly visits to SMSKN’s adopted island, Cow Island. John Contas reported that the first monitoring visit would be in May.
   3. Upcoming Events: Janet reported that three “quiet water” trips were posted after the Board’s discussion last month of how to encourage such trips. Janet stressed that she doesn’t want to let go of more challenging trips, but to add to them. Janet also noted that the monthly membership Zoom program on how to be a SMSKN Event Organizer is set for May 19.
   4. Summer picnic: Janet said she would soon call a planning meeting for the picnic. She reported that Alicia Heyburn as offered to organize a paddle from Mere Point to Winslow for picnic participants. Nananda said she had talked to park manager Neil Lynen (sp?) about securing space and tables for the picnic. He said we would simply need to “squat” at the tables we desired.
4. New Business:
   1. Paddlers without kayaks and recruiting younger paddlers: Janet recounted that a young woman who wants to join the club has 12-foot fold-up kayak. Janet wondered if there is more SMSKN could do more to encourage participation bvy people without boats or a place to store one. Should we set up a task team for novice paddlers? Greg suggested partnering with Portland Paddle to enable such people to rent kayaks and get expert instruction. Nananda proposed reaching out to other kayaking outfits for assistance. Janet asked the Board whether we should pursue this as a specific goal, i.e., identifying barriers for new paddlers, and planning how to eliminate them. Joe suggesting that we pursue this goal in tandem with an effort to recruit more young paddlers looking for connections with people their age, by partnering with the Maine Outdoor Activities Club (MOAC), or with Ripple Effect. Nananda said LLBean could also be a partner, and thought it would be good to talk to Lee Bumstead for additional ideas. Janet proposed that the Board seek more information and identify people to work on the project this year, and pursue it as a specific goal next year. The Board agreed to this approach. John suggested that we also get input from other Board members at the next Board call.
   2. In-person membership meetings: Nananda asked if SMSKN would ever go back to in-person monthly membership meetings. Janet responded that this would be an issue an issue for next year.
   3. Portland pool session: Janet said she would check to see of the Riverton pool was available for one more two-hour SMSKN pool session there. If it is possible to have one, she suggested that members pay $10 each for the session.
   4. MITA Panel on “Paddling Pals”: Janet said that she would be representing SMSKN on a panel discussion of paddling groups organized by MITA at noon on May 24, along with the North Shore Paddling Network (NSPN), the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), and Penobscot Paddle and Chowder Society.
   5. Upcoming Board Calls and programs: Janet said that the next Board call on June 1 would be the last for several months. In late summer the Board would need to start talking about fall monthly programs and the presidential leadership. For the next program, Janet said she wanted to talk to mentors about working with first-time trip paddling trip organizers.
5. Closure and Action Items:

* Janet to see if the Riverton pool is available for one more two-hour SMSKN pool session.

The Board call ended at 8:13 p.m.