**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Wednesday, November 2, 2022**

Members Participating:

Janet Robinson, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

Glen Gordon (candidate member)

John Haile

John Contas

Nananda Col

Tom Allen (candidate member)

Vytas Marciulionis (Vic)

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

The Board call commenced at 7:07 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes: deferred to next meeting.
3. Old Business
   1. Committee Updates
      1. Skills Committee – John H. reported that the Skills Committee met on October 19. Committee members were grateful to the Board for taking over management of SMSKN pool sessions, and expressed a desire to have a mix of sessions between Portland and Bath. The Committeee endorsed Janet’s recommended guidelines for handling relations with coaches who want to offer training sessions to SMSKN members. The Committee will ask providers to discount their fees by 10% to SMSKN members, and along with a 10% subsidy from SMSKN for its members who participate in these sessions. The Committee expressed thanks to Sig Siegfried for fleshing out the guidelines.
      2. Financial – Chip reported that he had cashed out SMSKN’s CDs when they matured, and had purchased new CDs at a higher rate of interest from TD bank.
4. New Business
   1. Annual Meeting and /or Party: Janet noted that there had been no year-end annual party in 2020, and that last year’s party was held via Zoom. She asked

Board members whether SMSKN should have an in-person party this December. Board members unanimously supported an in-person party. Nananda offered to host the party at her home in Georgetown. Janet thanked her for the offer but suggested that a location in Freeport or Yarmouth would be more geographically central for most of the SMSKN membership. John H. offered to ask LLBean if its Paddling Center could be made available to the club. Janet said the club should ask members to test themselves for COVID the day of the party to keep everyone safe.

* 1. Draft Budget Review: Janet presented a draft budget proposing $4,320 of spending on customary recurring expenses (website, Meetup fees, etc.), pool sessions, speaker fees, contributions to partner organizations, and SMSKN events. She noted that SMSKN’s increased membership (240 members as of 10/31/2022) provides an opportunity for increased operational spending to support the club. The proposed budget provides that surplus income remaining after other expenses would be given to the Skills Committee.

After discussion, the Board approved changes to the budget to the budget which reduced the surplus to be allocated to the Skills Committee from $690 to $370. The Board also approved a grant of $500 from the SMSKN capital account to the Skills Committee to increase its budget allocation to $870. Board members supported the use of the capital account to programs designed enhance the club’s services to members, rather than simply retaining all budget surpluses in the capital account for unspecified contingencies. They stressed that expenditures from the capital account should be invested in activities and equipment that strengthen the club’s capability to serve members over the long run, rather than simply supporting operational spending that exceeds current revenue. They agreed to discuss principles for using funds from the capital account at a future call.

* 1. Pool Session scheduling: Board members proposed that pool sessions in Portland be limited to two hours (vs. three hours split between two groups) and that more than two one-hour sessions be scheduled in Bath. After discussing whether or not to ask members to pay for pool sessions, the Board agreed that sessions would continue to be free for members, but that they would be able to make voluntary cash contributions to defray pool rental fees. Nananda also suggested that club members make available extra boats and gear for those who don’t have them.
  2. Presidential Transition: Janet reminded the Board that she will end her term as president in 2022. She asked board members to think of candidates and to consider stepping up themselves as candidates for president. The Board discussed qualities and skills that a president needs to have, and things that other Board members can do to support the next president, including designating a vice president or chief operating officer. Board members agreed to think about this and discuss it at the next Board call.

1. Closure and Action Items
   * John H. to ask LLBean if its Paddling Center could be made available to the club for an end-of-year party.
   * Board to discuss principles for using funds from the capital account at a future Board call.
   * Board to discuss presidential transition at the next Board call.

The Board call concluded at 9:07 p.m.

Next call: **Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 7 pm.**