**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023**

**7:00-8:30 PM**

Members Participating:

John Haile, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

Glen Gordon

Janet Robinson

John Contas

Nananda Col

Tom Allen

The Board call commenced at 7:00 p.m.

1. Welcome.
2. Approval of minutes from 04/05/2023 Board call: The Board unanimously approved the minutes.
3. Old business:
   1. Treasurer’s report: Chip reported that SMSKN has $4,767 in its checking account and $14,700 in CDs. He converted a Bangor Savings Bank CD to aTD Bank CD to obtain a higher interest rate. He noted that membership payments were for 2023 down a little compared to 2022 at this time: 97 vs. 127. He observed that his own membership had not auto-renewed through Meetup, and wondered whether the membership drop indicated an issue with Meetup or with individuals members. Janet noted that it was unusual to have such a significant drop. John H. said he would check Meetup’s payment mechanism for problems, and Glen offered to help.
   2. Business cards: The Board thanked Janet for the new design for the new SMSKN business card and approved it for an initial print run of 500.
   3. Skills Committee: John H. commended the Skills Committee’s active schedule for weekly skills sessions. Glen reported that enough instructors/facilitators are volunteering for each session to make them worthwhile.
   4. T-shirts: John H. reported that over 50 SMSKN T-shirts have been sold so far; members need to pick up their orders from the print shop. Janet suggested that next year SMSKN should offer T-shirts in additional colors as well as hats.
4. New Business.
5. Boat Storage: John H. drew Board members; attention to SMSKN’s mission statement, which includes facilitating “sea kayaking activities for persons of all skill levels.” As background, Janet said she had heard from newer paddlers that storing boats is problem; some are having to pay on the order of $50/mo. which is a deterrent to participation. Board members generally agreed that SMSKN should not seek to pay for storage that could be used by members, but pair up people who need a place to store their kayak with members who have extra space to store others’ boats. Tom said he had such a place. Glen said that given SMSKN’s far-flung membership, it needs a dispersed solution. John C. proposed doing a member survey to determine the level of need. Janet proposed having a brainstorming session after the survey to consider ideas for sharing storage. She offered to do a needs assessment through the SMSKN newsletter or other forum; John C. offered to help. The Board approved this approach.
6. Rotnem Donation: The Board discussed options for the type of event, purpose, location, and date for giving SMSKN members access to the equipment donated by former LLBean guide Richard Rotnem. Board members agreed that it could be combined with a picnic along the lines of last year’s 30th anniversary picnic. Board members proposed various means of distributing the gear, including a silent auction, flea market tables with individually priced items, and giving away certain items to new members. John H. proposed a Richard Rotnem scholarship fund created with proceeds from the sale of Rotnem’s equipment. SMSKN members could apply for grants from the fund for their first professional kayak skills training. The Board endorsed this proposal. As for location, Board members proposed Payson Park, Reid State Park, and Mitchell Field. The Board decided Mitchell Field offered the best combination of convenience, parking, and proximity to water access. Tom Allen offered to contact Harpswell officials to confirm we could hold the event there. Board members selected July 22 as the target date for the event.
7. Pool session reflections: Board members agreed to John H.’s proposal to table this item until Vic could participate in the discussion.
8. Allow members to sell their gear on the SMSKN website? Board members agreed with John H’s proposal not to pursue this, as there are sufficient alternatives for selling gear on SMSKN’s Meetup page chat area, on Craig’s List, and on the North Shore Paddling Network bulletin board.

Closure and Action Items:

* John H. to check the Meetup payment mechanism for problems; Glen to assist.
* Janet to get 500 SMSKN business cards printed.
* Janet to do a needs assessment survey of SMSKN members regarding kayak storage; John C. to assist.
* Zoom Board call to finalize language for Meetup post on picnic/Rotnem donation event once Tom has ascertained availability of Mitchell Field as venue.

The Board call concluded at 8:16pm.

**Next call: Wednesday, July 5, 2023, 7 pm.**