**Minutes**

**Southern Maine Sea Kayaking Network**

**Board Call**

**Wednesday, January 14, 2025**

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

Members Participating:

Glen Gordon, President

Chip Woodman, Treasurer

Cathy Kimball

Ellen Gluckman

Eric Sofen

Halle Kirsch

John Haile

Tom Allen

Vytas (Vic) Marciulionis

Greg Fergin, Recording Secretary

The Board call commenced at 7:03 p.m.

1. Welcome.
2. Approval of minutes from 11/6/2024 meeting: The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the November 6, 2024, Board call.
3. Ongoing business.
   1. Pool sessions. Glen reviewed pool sessions conducted so far, and asked Board members for their impressions how the sessions are going. Ellen praised the Wiscasset pool facility, and said that three-hour sessions worked well. Participants were conscientious about avoiding over-crowding in the pool. John reported that many new people had come to Bowdoin, and that there was good informal instruction going on. Not limiting the number of participants has worked well. Participants were donating generously.
   2. Monthly Membership meetings – Glen noted that on January 15 Joe Herlihy would present a Zoom session on the history of Casco Bay structures, and would do another Zoom session on February 19 on his solo kayaking trip along the Maine coast. Greg said that he would do a Zoom presentation on organizing easy camping trips targeted for late March. Glen and John offered to do a program in April on how to post a kayaking trip on Meetup. Eric noted that Tyler Winn had visited lighthouses in Maine; that might make an interesting presentation. He also suggested a session on “What’s in your (kayaking) dry bag?” John said that would make a good in-person presentation at the annual June “Stone Soup” get-together. Vic noted that a woman is doing a kayaking expedition along the U.S. East Coast; he said he would seek further details on her trip. Glen encouraged Board members to think of ideas for in-person events.
4. New Business.
   1. Priorities for 2025. Glen asked Board members for their ideas on club priorities for the coming year. He wondered whether SMSKN should consider funding professional coaching for members at a higher level. Tom noted that at present SMSKN usually organizes around eight professional coaching sessions a year, and he supported doing more. Greg asked if SMSKN could sustain a higher level of funding over a period of years. Chip answered that SMSKN’s financial reserves would support a higher level for many years. Tom shared a spreadsheet showing that for the current number of sessions with professional coaches, SMSKN could increase its support of individual member fees for skills courses to 40% for a total outlay of $1900/yr. Glen proposed that the Board inform the Skills Committee that from now out SMSKN will pay 40% individual member fees for professional training. The Board approved.
   2. SMSKN website updates/maintenance. Glen said he did not see a reason to change how we’re using Meetup. The SMSKN website is a little dated, but it is still useful as a mechanism for getting members to sign the Participant Agreement and for storing information for paddlers, past presentations, and Board minutes. Eric said he was capable of editing content and is willing to do so with Vic’s help. Halle offered to help out as well. John proposed that Eric, Halle, Vic, and Glen get together to discuss this. Glen agreed, suggesting that they meet and come up with ideas in next one to two months, and report back to board with recommendations on how to proceed, and whether professional help needed. The Board approved this approach.
   3. Report to Secretary of State. Chip requested that new members of the Board give him their contact details to put into SMSKN’s report to the Secretary of State’s office.
   4. Member database. Halle observed that at present it is difficult for SMSKN members to find out who might have a boat to lend to other members or have skills to share. She offered to look at the member database and assess how information could be shared among members and present her findings and ideas to the Board in the next few months. Board members responded positively.
   5. Reviving Committees and Social Activities. Cathy pointed out that SMSKN used have three active committees, but only the Skills committee remained active after the COVID pandemic. She thought it would be useful to revive the other committees with an eye to providing more opportunities for socializing and networking. Glen proposed that the Board discuss this again at its February Board call.
   6. Board Call Scheduling. Glen said he would will check with Board members on which weeknights work best for Board calls.
5. Closure and action items.

* February Board Call agenda item: Discuss reviving SMSKN committees.
* Board members to work on presentations for future monthly membership meetings, and ideas for in-person meetings.
* Eric/Halle/Vic/Glen to meet and make recommendations to the Board on updating, improving, and maintaining the SMSKN website.
* New Board members to give contact details to Chip.

The Board call concluded at 8:17 pm.

**Next call: Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 7:00pm.**