

## 2023 Annual Meeting, March 26, 2023,

### Burke Mountain Clubhouse, East Burke, Vermont

**Welcome & Called to Order** – NEKGMC President, John Predom, welcomed everyone to the 2023 NEKGMC Annual Meeting at 1:05 P.M. John reported on his third year as NEKGMC President, a role he initially assumed at Jean Haigh's request. Jean was concerned the section would fragment after her passing. This happily has not occurred. He spoke of starting during the pandemic and following COVID-19 guidelines. John had intended to relinquish this role in 2023 but has decided to continue (applause). The challenge to find hike leaders remains. John mentioned incentives to attract hike leaders. He has only 4 to 6 persons who consistently lead hikes. The only requirement to be a hike leader is GMC membership. Incentives are offered for consistent hike leaders such as payment for wilderness first aid. John mused on the thought of a dozen leaders per quarter. On a different topic, he noticed that membership forms must be in writing per the bylaws. As the matter had not been warned, it will be addressed at the Summer quarterly meeting in July.

**Secretary's Report** – NEKGMC Secretary, Michael Chernick, reviewed highlights from the January 2023 quarterly meeting held at the NorthWoods Stewardship Center in East Charlestown.

Motion to Approve the Minutes – [Brooks /Commons] Approved unanimously

**Treasurer's Report** – NEKGMC Treasurer, Angela Smith, submitted the following quarterly report on the section's finances:

Northeast Kingdom Section ~ Green Mountain Club

Quarterly Financial Statement

As of March 25, 2023

Operating Account

Beginning Balance (as of 01/14/23)

\$5,006.22

Income

Dues Sharing

Nov (01/24/23) \$120.00

December

(posted 01/25/23) \$266.25

January (posted 03/05/23) \$51.25

Expenses

Cathi Brooks (Shirt Shipping) \$82.06

Kingdom Embroidery (Deposit on T-shirts) \$186.00

Kingdom Embroidery (Remainder on T-shirts) \$186.00

Burke Mountain Clubhouse (Donation) \$25.00

Ending Balance

\$4,964.66

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Certificate of Deposit

CD#1

....4489/Matures 01/12/2024 @.40% \$1,595.24

CD#2

....3785/Matures 06/27/2023 @.40% \$1,755.87

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Grand Total All Monies  
\$8,315.77

Angela Smith ~ Treasurer

The section accepted the report as received

**Main Club Director's Report** – NEKGMC Main Board Member, Cathi Brooks, reported on the March Main Club Board meeting. The GMC is granting an honorary life membership to XXXX. Someone will substitute for Cathi at the June Main Club Board Meeting as she will be attending a family wedding in Virginia. Long Trail Day will be Aug 19. NEKGMC Executive Director, Mike DeBonis, will take a sabbatical following the 2023 Annual Meeting in June and through the summer. Deputy Director, Alicia Di Coco, will serve this role in Mike's absence. Mike testified to House Commerce Committee, in the General Assembly, in favor of VHCB funding and other outdoor recreation legislation. A full field season is planned, including construction of the Bromley Tower, the Herrick Building's reconstruction, and the Jean Haigh Cabin (already under construction). There will be contractor support (already signed) for the timber framing of the Herrick Building. Last year, the field season focused on the multi-organizational reconstruction of the Burrows Trail on Camel's Hump. This project will continue through next summer (2024). There will be three trail crews this season and crew members' base rate will be \$15.00 per hour. Funding for Herrick and the Jean Haigh Cabin is from Capital Campaign proceeds and separate fundraising occurred for the Bromley Tower. Membership numbers have fallen, and the Main Club hopes to revive them. But contribution numbers are up. A GMC bequest challenge has been started with two anonymous donors providing base funding. Main Club finances are strong. There is an operating deficit that GMC is working to alleviate. The Club is also looking to hire a new manager for the Visitors' Center. In 2024, there will be a new edition of the publication 50 Hikes in Vermont. Unfortunately, due to the current lack of public access, the Mount Monadnock article will probably be removed from the book. The Main Club has implemented a new digital geo-system for trails management. The GMC is still looking for volunteers for the Volunteer LT Patrol. This will consist of seven weeks of trail hardening on a designated section of the LT. GMC will be offering, through a private contractor, a chain saw class. Sections were encouraged to support enrollees with tuition grants. The class will take place April 14-16. The 10 class slots will cost in excess of \$5,000 (in total). Lorne Currier at Main Club is the coordinator. The class will occur on GMC land in Johnson. NEKGMC Section member, Victor Caamano, may be interested and will contact the Main Club. There will also be cross-cut training in June, but priority for that class will be given to sections with wilderness areas (not NEK). Lot 49 at Wheeler Pond Camp (the parking lot across the road) is completed. The loft space at Hadsel will no longer be a permitted sleeping area due to safety reasons. Various repairs have been completed at Hadsel. The Judevine track has been transferred to the State. There are approximately 6 miles of LT still requiring protection. The connection to North Country Trail (an east-west National Scenic Trail extending from Vermont to North Dakota) has been approved. The final eastern end of North Country Trail will be at Maine Junction. There will be updating on management planning aspects of this project. Lastly, the FY 2024 (starts May 1, 2023) Main Club Budget was approved.

**NEKGMC Officer Elections** -The following slate of officers for the 2023-2024 year was proposed:

President – John Predom (1 year)

Vice President – Paul Trojano (1 year)

Secretary – Michael Chernick (1 year)

Treasurer – Angela Smith (1 year)

Rep to Main Board Cathi Brooks (3 years)

No other nominations were offered

Motion to direct the NEKGMC Secretary to cast a single ballot for all four elected officers- [Barnes/Caamamo], Approved Unanimously

Appointment of NEKGMC Section Archivist, Andrea Kane to the NEKGMC Executive Committee

Motion to direct the NEKGMC President to appoint the NEKGMC Archivist, Andrea Kane, to the Executive Committee [Barnes/Caamamo], Approved unanimously

Membership Coordinator Vacancy – Beth Barnes is stepping down as NEKGMC Membership Coordinator/Newsletter editor as she will be busily engaged in her duties as mayor of Newport. The opening is posted. Beth will remain in these roles till a successor is appointed. The posts could be split but usually have been unified.

**KHT Corridor Management Agreement** – The agreement designating the GMC as the organizational manager for hiking trails on the Kingdom Heritage Lands expires in the near future and will be up for renewal. John Predom is interested in modifications to the plan regarding Unknown Pond (remove) and Black Mountain (added). V The idea of designating NorthWoods Stewardship Center as a co-manager will be discussed.

**Wilderness First Aid Renewals** – Section hike leaders (Susan Winsor/Cathi Brooks) Wilderness First Aid certification is expiring. The NEKGMC will cover the cost for renewals via attendance at a class that Andrea Kane (a qualified instructor) will offer.

**Trail Work Day** – Tentatively set for Sunday June 4. Exact location is to be determined. Kevin would prefer a new location. Kevin suggested Unknown Pond (South side of Middle Mountain).

Brighton Trail Day (June 24 tentative). Sue Winsor will work with someone from the Town of Island Pond on the necessary arrangements and the permitting process. After discussions, it has been decided to retain this event in Brighton.

**Section Workings Group and Membership** – Beth Barnes reports the exact number of members is uncertain. Rick Dugan, the Main Club Membership Coordinator, is responsible for this data. Beth is assuming 300 members, based on the knowledge that four new members have joined. On March 29 there is an NVU-Lyndon Health Fair. Beth discussed a joint event with the Northern Frontier Section at the Jay Recreation site off River Road. But on further discussion that site was determined to be too small. The section discussed August 5 or September 9 as possible dates for this event. Beth will contact Ken Whitehead (President Northern Frontier). She is considering a Newport hiking event at a later date. The idea of a bike ride across the border via the Beebe Spur Trail was proposed. The date of the next section working group is undetermined.

**Camps Committee** – Paul Trojano, Chair of the Main Club's Camps Committee, indicated that volunteers will be welcomed (on set dates) to participate in the raising of the walls of Jean's Cabin. The parking lot across the street has been expanded. There will be a new woodshed near the Jean Haig Cabin. Paul emphasized that there is a need to keep 10 chords of wood at Wheeler on a continuing basis. In the fall, there will be a wood stacking event. Paul will be visiting the site on 3/27.

**Trails Management Committee (Main Club) Cathi Brooks** – The LT Management Plan is being revised. One issue is that hikers have been staying overnight for multiple nights. The issue of vandalism and hate speech has arisen, a more effective policy is needed. An update on the Leave No Trace policy and the associated issue of waste disposal is also required. Another topic is the policy on tree removal. Only qualified persons should be determining if tree should be removed. There was not any discussion at the most recent TC Meeting regarding the primitive camp sites on the KHT. This is a topic that John Predom wants to move forward. John mentioned new Pisgah signs are coming. The Caretaker fees at GMC shelters are being eliminated. The idea is to eliminate the caretakers handling cash. Alternative revenue sources will account for this loss of income.

**Section Volunteer Appreciation Date** – The idea of staging this event in April is off. It will be

rescheduled for the fall. There remains no indication that Main Club will reestablish a Volunteer Appreciation Day. Therefore, proceeding forward with a section event is warranted.

**Volunteers to Lead Hikes** – John Predom again stressed his desire to find creative ways to entice new hike leaders.

**GMC Annual Meeting** – June 17 at Craftsbury Outdoor Center

**Bylaw Update**– Michael Chernick will send out proposed language to address updating the Section Bylaws relative to the written application required for GMC membership.

**GMC Summer Quarterly Meeting** – July 9-Lenny’s Camp Holland Vermont. Details to follow

Kevin suggested a group trail even at John’s Trail or Cow Mountain. (see above)

Agreement on adjournment at 2:46

**Submitted by Michael Jay Chernick** – NEKGMC Secretary