

Summer Quarterly Meeting

July 17, 2022, Lenny's Camp -Holland Pond, Vermont

Welcome – NEK GMC President, John Predom, called the meeting to order at 1:26 PM.

President's Report – John Predom commented that we are heading into the heart of the hiking season and expressed appreciation for the fast response to trail clearing needs. This coming week, Paul Trojano and John Predom will be wood stacking at Wheeler Pond Camps. The Brighton Trail Day event was a great success, as was the map and compass session at the NorthWoods Stewardship Center. Two section members took the sawing training and Susan Windsor has been leading hikes twice a week until her recent injury.

Secretary's Report – NEKGMC Secretary, Michael Chernick, reviewed the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting held in April at the Burke Mountain Clubhouse.

Treasurer's Report – In the absence of NEKGMC Treasurer, Angela Smith, Michael Chernick reviewed the quarterly treasurer's report, which Angela submitted as follows:

Northeast Kingdom Section – Green Mountain Club

Quarterly Financial Statement

As of July 13, 2022

Operating Account

Beginning Balance (as of 04/02/22) \$6,187.46

-\$350.00 "March" in error should be toward Dec

\$5,837.46

Income

Dues Sharing

March \$177.75

April \$186.25

May \$86.26

Expenses

John Predom (Reimbursement) \$414.56

Ending Balance \$5,625.65

** Main Club still owes (as of 7/17/24) \$717.17 -\$120.00-\$350.00 = \$247.50

Certificates of Deposit

CD#1 ...4849/Matures 01/12/23 @.40% \$1,591.85

CD#2 ...3785/Matures 06/27/2023 @.40% \$1,752.96

Grand Total All Monies \$8,970.46

Angela Smith – Treasurer

Following presentation of the report, those in attendance discussed that prior to the next CD mature date, Angela should investigate if retaining the funds in a CD is the best financial option.

Main Club Director's Report – NEKGMC's Main Club Director, Cathi Brooks, reported on the GMC's June 2022 Board meeting and other recent developments. Fiscal Year 2022 ended on May 31 with a surplus of \$3436 (virtually balanced). Direct contributions were 80 percent of FY 2022's revenue total. Membership revenue was slightly down. But fee for services was dramatically up to \$650,000 worth of field services performed. Grants also increased. Total Fiscal Year 2022 revenue was \$2,126,684 and expenses totaled \$1, 123,051. Salaries and wages were \$1, 346.30. Program expenses rose as field work increased (15.7 percent over Fiscal Year 2021). Despite the recent inflation, GMC finances are in good shape.

The multi-partner restoration project on Camel's Hump's Burrough's Trail is proceeding. There will be additional field work this season on the Burrough's Trail and other projects. As of late May, the endowment stood at \$6.7 million (prior to the recent stock market downturn). The GMC Capital Campaign concluded successfully achieving its \$4 million goal. An event celebrating this achievement will be held on a date to be determined.

Cath Brooks also mentioned other administrative matters, including the status of car leases. A new App was introduced in May to phase out staff paper reports. The formal design has been approved for the new Herrick Building at headquarters, and the Act 250 permit is secured. The Club has engaged a sign design company to develop new signage at the Route 100 entrance to headquarters. A new heating system has been installed at the Visitors' Center.

On the publications front, new Killington and Day Hikers' Guides are being published. GMC sales in FY 2022 totaled approximately \$21,000, with the LT Guide, Day Hiker's Guide, and other maps topping the sales list.

The Main Club Membership Committee is developing a new survey of club members and is also involved in the preparation for the LT Day scheduled for September 10. The NEKGMC's contribution to this club-wide activity will consist of a hike from Route 105 to the Canadian border, hiking north on the LT and returning via the Journey's End Trail.

Executive Director's Report– NEKGMC Executive Mike DeBonis was in attendance and reviewed the current COVID policies, which rely on CDC standards. Staff vaccinations remain mandatory.

Field Program Updates – GMC Director of Field Programs, Kegan Tierney, has established crews for this summer. Administratively, procedures were better organized this year. An additional crew was organized for the Burroughs Trail project. The Volunteer Long Trail Patrol has been reinstated.

Camps – Hadsel Mares was 77 percent occupied during the spring and 21 percent of the renters were GMC members. Overall, for Fiscal Year 2022, Hadsel Mares was 90 percent occupied, Bryant Camp had an 80 percent recorded occupancy, and Bolton Camp was 58 percent occupied. By end of fall, the Beaver Dam Replacement Camp should be completed. During the construction period (September -2/3 months) Hadsel Mares will be closed. Most immediately, a wood stacking session will be held on 7/18. Whether to name the new cabin for Jean will be determined at the September Main Club Board Meeting.

Land Conservation – A focus on preservation of land areas around the LT is underway. All segments of the LT have an assigned corridor monitor.

Special Recognition – President's Award – Long serving NEKGMC Membership Coordinator and Publications Editor, Ed Guest, who spearheaded NEKGMC 's hosting the 2004 GMC Annual Meeting at Burke, was a reliable and essential member at numerous wood stacking sessions, and a great hiking

companion, was honored with a GMC President's Award. GMC Executive Director, Mike DeBonis, presented the award to Ed.

Membership /Newsletter Update – As of June 2022, the NEK Section had 267 members (9800 total GMC/5800 at large) NEKGMC Membership Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, Beth Barnes, presented the following report:

Beth offered she is enthusiastic to keep both of her roles and that another eat and greet is possible at Chez Pigeon in Norton.

Kingdom Heritage Campsites – There is no final decision yet regarding the proposed Kingdom Heritage campsites. Two campsites have been identified, but the ultimate decision on proceeding with these locations is now with the partners (the private landowners, the Agency of Natural Resources, and the GMC).

Section Donations – Whether to approve the NEKGMC Section donating to the Burke Clubhouse and the NorthWoods Stewardship Center was deferred, due to the lack of an Executive Committee quorum. (The Executive Committee was polled subsequently and approved \$500.00 for NorthWoods and \$100 for the Burke Clubhouse.

New Adopter Need – A new adopter is needed for the Bluff Community Trail in Brighton.

Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation Summer Updates – Luke O'Brien, in his role as an FPR Recreation Specialist submitted the following report on current and prosed trail projects under FPR's authority:

FPR District 5

2022 Field Season Activity Report

Trail and recreation projects in the Northeast Kingdom have been greatly aided this season by the recent hiring of a seasonal (May-October) Trail Coordinator- Kevin Studley. Kevin and Luke have both been engaged in supporting numerous summer projects, and the added staff capacity (albeit temporary) has been helpful to visit and support more projects on more of our public lands.

Below is a summary of work taking place during the 2022 field season.

- The FPR State Trail Crew is at full capacity, with five members completing a total of 7 weeks of trail maintenance in the NEK. Thus far, work completed includes:
- Trail Roving at Groton SF: Osmore Pond, Big Deer, Little Deer, Owls Head, and Kettle Pond Trails
- Trail maintenance at Seyon Lodge SP at/around Noyes Pond in Groton
- Upcoming work will include:
- Additional Trail Roving at Groton SF, as well as Brighton SP, Maidstone SP, Devil's Hill, and Peacham Bog will occur this fall.
- NorthWoods Stewardship Center crews have completed or will complete the following work:
- Willoughby Shore Trail- 2 weeks of stabilization, maintenance, and restoration
- Bald Mountain summit cabin- 1 week maintaining and staining the summit cabin
- Trail Roving- 2 weeks of light maintenance on Pisgah North and South Trails, Bald Mountain Mad Brook and Long Pond Trails, Burke Red and West Peak Trails, Unknown Pond Trail, Gore Mountain Trail (lower section), and Moose Bog.
- Peacham Bog Loop- 2 weeks of tread work on the southern loop to improve access for horses and bicycles.
- Vermont Youth Conservation Corps will be completing a 2-week project to restore the historic

CCC Coldwater Brook Camp in Groton State Forest.

- NorthWoods Watershed Crew spent several days in June planting tree seedlings and revegetating heavily impacted areas along the Willoughby Lake shoreline, primarily adjacent to the west cove beach.
- Additional projects scheduled for this season by FPR staff include:
- Expanded parking at Lyndon State Forest
- Bald Mountain Fire Tower roof repair
- Trail sign replacement at Owls Head, Mt Hor, Moose Mountain, and Seyon Lodge
- Blaze updates at Pisgah North, Moose Mountain, Kettle Pond, and Middle Mountain
- Shelter repair work at Burroughs and Red Trail lean tos in Darling SP
- Trail assessments on the upper reaches of the Pisgah South, Bald Mountain Long Pond, and Burke Mountain West Peak and Red Trails, perhaps leading to funding in 2023
- Continued work to approve and implement Black Mountain climbing plan
- Fire Tower structural assessments on Bald and Burke Mountains

A big future project is the replacement of the Pisgah South Trail boardwalk, hopefully in spring 2023.

Westmore Challenge – The NorthWoods Stewardship Center’s Westmore Challenge hike is scheduled for Saturday September 24, 2022. The NEKGMC will provide volunteer support.

Brighton Trail Day – There was discussion of possibly switching the event to Norton (new hikes would be offered). If in Norton, the event would be centered at Black Turn Brook State Forest. Alternatively, Jackson Heights Lodge in Canaan is a possibility. The idea of Norton seemed of special interest to those in attendance.

Volunteer T-Shirts – John is interested in developing and distributing tee shirts for section volunteers. (The Executive Committee was polled subsequently and approved)

GMC Annual Meeting Scheduling – GMC Executive Director, Mike DeBonis, explained the scheduling of the process for scheduling the GMC Annual Meeting. The process is now institutionalized in a manual with a calendar. The 2023 GMC Annual Meeting is planned at Sterling College (Northern Frontier, Laraway, and Sterling sections co-sponsoring). Jackson Lodge in Canaan has expressed interested as a site and John Predom will put it in contact with Mike DeBonis

Next Meeting – Marty Podosh will be the guest speaker at the NEKGMC Fall Quarterly meeting on Saturday October 1, 2022. He is an expert on the CCC Camps. The meeting will convene at the Burke Mountain Clubhouse at 4:00 PM, with Marty’s presentation scheduled for 6:00 PM.

NEKGM History Project Update – Andrea Kane continues working on the compilation of an NEKGMC history document. She is busily involved with her professional duties during the summer and will focus again on the project in the fall.

Future Hikes – The date of future hikes will be determined later.

Adjournment – The NEKGMC Summer Quarterly meeting adjourned at 2:54 PM with Lenny serving his famous cheesecake.

Michael Jay Chernick – NEKGMC Secretary