

NEKGMC Summer Quarterly Meeting, Lenny's Camp,

Holland , Vermont, July 20, 2025

Called to Order – In the absence of NEKGMC President John Predom, NEKGMC Vice President Paul Trojano called the meeting to order at 1 P.M.

Attendees Cathi Brooks, Michael Chernick, Steve Farrow, Chris Rice, Paul Trojano, Lenny Targonski, and Kevin Williamson

President's Welcoming Remarks – John Predom submitted the following comments to be read at the meeting and then included in the minutes:

Sorry, Couldn't attend the summer meeting at Lenny's Camp. Its always an event that I look forward to. I am currently working at Brighton State Park and Sunday is a busy day, guests check out, while we clean and prepare campsites, lean-to's, cabins, and bathrooms, for new campers to check in at 2 00 PM. It's one of the busiest and favorite days to work.

Our volunteers have been busy too! Kevin will provide and update as to our trails and trail adopters. I didn't get out on my adopted trail (the Gore East Trail) until the week before Brighton Trails Day. Thanks to Thomas Grimes for helping reach the summit, I couldn't have done it in a day without him.

Thank you to all who volunteered for Brighton Trails Day. And special thanks to Susan for organizing this event and getting all the permits. It takes quite a bit of time and effort to make this happen.

Cathi will be giving an update from our Annual GMC Meeting and Paul will talk more about Kingdom Express and our Long Trail Day Hike-a-thon.

Thank you all for being NEK GMC Members! And have a great day!

Secretary's Report -NEKGMC Secretary, Michael Chernick reviewed the minutes of the annual/spring meeting. Subject to minor corrections, the following motion and vote occurred.

MOTION: Paul Trojano/Cathi Brooks moved to approve the minutes as amended. Approved unanimously.

Long Trail Day– The date is Saturday September 20 Paul Trojano spoke of the NEK Section's hike Route 58 to Frank Post. The section's participation effort is referred to as Kingdom Express. In the past. the NEKGMC (other than staff) has raised the largest amount from any group contributor for this annual fundraising effort in support of the GMC.

Treasurer's Report – NEKGMC Treasurer, Angela Smith, submitted the following financial update regarding the section's finances:

Northeast Kingdom Section ~ Green Mountain Club Mountain Club, Quarterly Financial Statement, As of July 19, 2025

Operating Account

Beginning Balance (as of 03/23/2025)

\$3,658.56

Income

Dues Sharing

March-(posted 05/14/25) \$227.50

April – (posted 05/14/25) \$255.00

May – (posted 05/17/25) \$15.00

Expenses

Burke Mountain Clubhouse Donation \$100.00

Front Porch Forum Donation \$200.00

North Woods SC Donation \$500.00

GMC – Maps to Sell \$199.29

NWSC- Maps to Sell \$150.00

John Predom (Reimb. Office Supplies) \$35.51

USPS \$12.00

Kingdom Embroidery \$432.60

Dot Easy (1) \$1.44

Dot Easy (2) \$179.40

Dot Easy (3) \$.30

*Dot Easy (4) \$37.90

This is the NEKGMC 's web provider

Ending Balance

\$2,307.62

Certificate of Deposit

CD#1

\$1,617.75 (matures 1/12/26 @.40% interest

CD#2

\$1,778.88 (matures) 06/27/2026 @.40% interest

Grand Total All Monies

\$5,704.03

Angela Smith ~ Treasurer

Director's Report – NEKGMC Director Cathi Brooks presented a summary of the Main Club Board meeting held following the GMC's 14th Annual Meeting at the Waterbury headquarters on June 14, 2025.

Financially, the GMC concluded FY 25 (ended 4/30/25) with an \$87,000 surplus. Maintaining a capital reserve surplus that equals 12 percent of operating expenses is now a GMC fiscal objective. Total operating revenue was \$2.35 million, 9% over FY 24 and 3% above the budgeted amount. Contributions totaled \$894,000.00, including planned giving gifts that were \$97,000.00, Contributions

were 3% above budget and 16% above FY 24. Membership was challenging totaling \$254,000.00, 94% of the budgeted projection and 95% of the FY 24 amount. But program revenue of \$988,000.00 equaled 100 % of the budgeted projection and was 15% above FY 24. Additionally, \$441,000.00 was received for restricted future purposes.

After the mid FY 25 budget revision, expenses were \$2,577,000.00 or 1% above the budgeted level, and 1% above the FY 24 operating figure. Compensation and health care costs were higher, but health care plan modifications prevented an even larger rise in that category. Key software updating expenses were higher than expected, and there was an increase in expenses associated with the GMC governance review.

An anonymous donor has facilitated the hiring of a new Land Stewardship Coordinator for the next two years. This hire will enable Mollie Flanagan to focus on implementing the strategic conservation plan-completing the permanent protection of the Long Trail.

The endowment increased from \$7,300,000.00 to \$8,000,000.00. Update reports were published from the Budget and Finance, Camps, Development, Endowment, Governance, Land Conservation, Section Working Group, Nominating, Publications, Trail Management Committees.

On the LT Protection front, the Deer Camp Tract acquisition and the Middlebury Snow Bowl Right-of-Way implementation were completed. These projects bring the LT protection goal to the 98% completion mark. Relatedly, the Minerva Hinchey Shelter relocation was also completed.

The official NEK GMC membership number stood at 288, the fourth ranking among all the sections.

The 29th Long Trail Guide was published.

Other trail related projects include the planned relocation of the LT in at Prospect Rock in Johnson, the expansion of the Battell overnight site, and the authorization of two LT crossings of the Belmont Trail at Old Job Trail and Griffith Lake subject to an MOU between GMC and the Vermont's governing organization.

The GMC' role in the maintenance of the Kingdom Heritage Trail was relinquished and NorthWoods Stewardship Center has entered a new hiking trail corridor management agreement with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Future GMC members' volunteering on KHT projects will be encouraged. The NEK Section, including the Hadsel Mares and Jean Haigh Camps are not affected and will continue.

A new chainsaw use policy is under review and is subject, in part, to updates to the Department of Forest , Parks and Recreation cooperative agreement.

Trails and Adopters Report – NEKGMC Trail Adopter Coordinator Kevin Williamson reported that an adopter is needed for the south side of Middle Mountain. He could also use more help with Cow Mountain Pond. Kevin will check with NorthWoods Stewardship Center, which recently worked at the site. There are beaver issues at the East Trail at Pisgah and at the Gore Mountain Trail below Gore Junction.

History & Archives – Steve Farrow has assumed responsibility for this portfolio. He will meet with Andrea in the fall to transfer the files

Membership -The latest membership dues sharing is incorporated into the Treasurer's Report. There were 23 renewal upgrades and one new membership. The details of the \$15.00 for May were not in the Treasurer's Report.

Department of Forest Parks and Recreation Update – FPR Recreation Specialist Luke O'Brien submitted the following report:

This month is the heart of the trail crew field season. Thus far, NorthWoods crews have completed one week of maintenance at Gore Mountain, one week at the Pisgah South Trail, two weeks at Burke, one week at the CCC Camp in WSF, and the first of two weeks at Sentinel Rock.

Upcoming projects include two weeks of shelter maintenance at Burke and Victory, bridge construction at Sentinel Rock, one week of roving in Groton SF, two weeks on Bald Mountain, and two additional weeks at Pisgah South Trail.

Later this summer/fall, crews will replace the Bald Mountain cabin roof, replace bridges at Seyon SP and Peacham Pond, maintain trails at the Groton Nature Center, restore the shelter at Peacham Pond, and complete two weeks of additional maintenance at Black Mountain.

Fire tower restoration is currently underway at Burke Mountain with a tentative wrap-up date in early August.

There is anew composting privy off the CCC Road.

The Bald Mountain tower volunteer day is August 11.

NorthWoods Stewardship Center Update – NWS Executive Director, Maria Young, submitted the following report:

NorthWoods and FPR are moving forward with the KHT Corridor Manager update. We plan to get together this Fall to look at updates. I will reach out to John when the opportunity comes for NEKGMC feedback. We are really excited about this opportunity. Trail work! 'tis the season.

Thank you, Trail Adopters, for all you do out there. We have 4 youth, and 1 adult trail crew underway. If any NEKGMC folks are interested in visiting a crew with me on the trail, please reach out. We aim to have our NEK Accessible Trails Challenge list and guidance out this Fall.

Save the Date: Bald Mountain Volunteer Carry – for cabin roof replacement. Monday, August 11-8 AM – Noonish. I'll stay in touch with John as those details .

The section discussed involving NorthWoods in the future operation of Brighton Trails Day.

Camps – Paul Trojano, who chairs the GMC Camps' Committee, reported that the work Keegan supervised at Wheeler Pond was impressive. There is now a new wood shed and picnic table at Jean Haigh Camp. Construction has started on a trail facilitating handicap access. There have been minor repairs at Hadsel Mares and much need clearing around the cabin. Paul will speak to Keegan on Aug 5. There is a beaver problem on Route 5 due to a water flow from the Nome Trail.

Outings – Paul Trojano reported Long Trail Day will occur on September 20 and the Westmore Challenge on Saturday. September 27.

Newsletter – John Predom is the temporary newsletter editor.

Tabling Permit – An FPR permit was issued to the NEKGMC that authorized the section to operate an information table at the Pisgah South parking lot on July 26. Paul Trojano supervised this activity.

Clothing -There will be new tee shirts and hats for sale. Cathi Brooks will pay (via the section's debit card) to the manufacturer for this purchase. The goal will be to sell as much of the new inventory as possible.

Adjournment & Next Meeting -The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 P.M. with many thanks to Lenny Targonski for his hospitality. The next meeting will be on Sunday October 12 at Jean Haigh Cabin as part of the wood stacking weekend.

Submitted by Michael Jay Chernick – NEKGMC Secretary