

Summer Meeting – July 25, 2021

Island Pond, Vermont

Call to Order – NEKGMC President John Predom called the meeting to order at 1:37 P.M. Originally, John wanted to discuss COVID but decided otherwise. He mentioned a recently received e-mail from an individual requesting a schedule of quarterly hiking trips. John expressed his appreciation for all the volunteer input. The e-mail writer also inquired the destination of the dollars and how the money is divided between the Main Club and the section. There was a brief discussion of the division of funds between the Main Club and the sections, which results in a percentage in the 20 to 25 percent range being returned to a designated section, when an individual joins or renews with that section.

Secretary's Report – NEKGMC Secretary Michael Chernick reviewed the highlights of the April 11, 2021 NEKGMC Annual Meeting.

MOTION [Brooks/Williamson] Approve the April 11, 2021 Annual Meeting minutes as presented

Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

In Angela's absence Cathi Brooks made an oral presentation

Northeast Kingdom Section ~ Green Mountain Club

Quarterly Financial Statement

As of July 20, 2021

Operating Account

Beginning Balance (as of 04/02/2021) \$3,629.94

Income

Dues Sharing

Mar Dues Sharing (Deposited 05/03) \$133.75

Apr Dues Sharing (Deposited 05/12) \$276.25

Expenses

John Predom -Website Reimbursement \$250.80

Ending Balance \$3,789.14

Certificate of Deposit

CD#14489/Matures 01/12/2022 @.40% \$1,587.02

CD#23785/Matures 06/27/2022 @.40% \$1,748.59

Grand Total All Monies \$7,124.75

Angela Smith ~ Treasurer

Beth Barnes inquired regarding acknowledgement of two \$500.00 donors, including the deposit of the funds locally. Specifically, \$1,000 (the total amount of both donations) is intended for support of the Kingdom Heritage Trail. There is a question on the allocation of one of the \$500.00 contributions' back to the section in its entirety. A discussion will be held with Main Club staff to address this matter.

Directors' Report – Cathi Brooks, the NEKGMC's Main Club Board Director, reported on highlights from the June 2021 GMC Board meeting.

Financially, the Main Club ended FY 21 with a net surplus of \$ 302,744. Of this amount, \$90,000 will be directed to FY 2022 expenses. The solar power and publications loans were paid off in full. Revenues totaled over 100 percent of the budget. Contributions and memberships exceeded last fiscal year's amounts. The federal payback protection loan has been forgiven. Publications experienced an increase in sales and the endowment now stands at over \$6.1 million. The GMC's financial status is strong as FY 22 begins.

The Capital Campaign continues with a total raised of \$1,775,248, the further amount of \$427,289 pledged for a total commitment of \$2,202,537. Of the total amount, \$2,500 has been pledged to Beaver Dam's construction.

GMC has secured state funding towards the purchase of the Judevine property that will hopefully be transferred for inclusion of the Long Trail State Forest. The problem of racist graffiti at hiking locations has emerged in the NEK. No arrests have been made to date. New efforts to acknowledge donors to the GMC are being implemented, including more outreach thank you calls from the Main Club's Development Committee's members.

A new outdoor retailer business collaboration has been established and several businesses are participating, such as Lenny's Shoes and Darn Tough Vermont, the sock manufacturer. Three new vehicles have been donated to the GMC. The road signage heading into Waterbury headquarters is being revamped to provide improved motorist access. The sixth edition of the LT Map has been released.

The GMC Camps reopened in June 2020. During the recently completed FY 2021, Hadsel Mares achieved a 76 percent rate of occupancy, the highest of any GMC camp. 75 percent of its guests rated the facility as excellent. Comments on needed immediate repairs were noted. Cathi reported that both construction of Beaver Dam and the needed Hadsel Mares repairs may be delayed until calendar year 2023 (FY 24). Dusty (of Northwoods) has offered NorthWoods crew to work on local projects here in the NEK (such as Beaver Dam). Paul suggested that the Amish could construct Beaver Dam for 40 percent less. The current guesstimate exceeds \$100,000.00 But, if the Amish were to construct Beaver Dam, there would be insurance, logistical, and possible vaccination issues to address.

Headwaters has been sold to local NEK residents.

Beaver Dam Construction Motion [Trojano/Brooks] That the Main Club assign a high priority to the construction of the Beaver Dam Camp and the repairs required at Hadsel Mares.

Approved unanimously

Cathi will be in contact with GMC President Howard VanBenthuyzen and GMC Director of Field Programs Keegan Tierney to communicate the adoption of this resolution and express the section's concerns on Beaver Dam's prioritization.

Regarding other Main Club topics, Cathi updated the section on a parking problem at Bald Mountain in Woodford (not Westmore) and efforts to resolve the difficulty. There remains a nuisance problem at the

Winooski Bridge, which the Main Club is working to ameliorate, and the Bromley Tower planning process continues. Land monitoring is at nearly full force. Efforts to improve GMC communications have featured the Mud Madness publicity drive and the associated weekly release of a list of weekly hiking options during Mud Season. There is a continuing effort to educate hikers on trail etiquette. In FY 21, the Visitors Center had a 38 percent online sales revenue increase in comparison to FY 20. Nine speakers presented James Taylor lectures online, which a total of 1500 viewers attended virtually. Since April, 34 section work hour reports (club-wide) have been submitted. The Leave No Trace program has raised \$1300. Lastly, the Main Club Volunteer Picnic has been scheduled for October (instead of after the September GMC Board meeting). This change is to accommodate a diversity and inclusion training session planned for after the September Board Meeting.

Newsletter – NEKGMC Newsletter Editor Ed Guest is preparing the newsletter. But given his health issues, he is requesting assistance. Efforts were discussed of ways of assisting Ed in this endeavor.

Brighton Trail Days (Sat July 31) – NEKGMC President John Predom reported on the many requirements, including insurance, that were needed to organize the event. John asked if kids friendly hikes should be designated? Should there be pet rules or not? He suggested a key swap on the Bluff Ridge Trail hike. Kevin Williamson suggested a leader swap in lieu of a key swap. Another issue is what if there is an unexpected quantity of hikers. We can start a new hike (on the same trail) every 20 minutes. The Gore East Trail hike may be cancelled in lieu of a second Middle Mountain hike. Distribution of first aid kits was discussed and it is intended that all leaders will hike with a rudimentary kit.

Long Trail Day (August 28) – As part of the club-wide Long Trail Day fundraiser, the NEK Section will conduct a Kingdom Express Hike to the top of Jay Peak with an option to continue to Route 105. The Main Club also wants to offer trail magic refreshments that day. Routes 105 and 242 are possible sites for trail magic.

Corporate Hikes – Beth Barnes explained that corporate hikes would be for employees of a specific corporation conducted under the auspices of an NEKGMC leader. These would be easier hikes and ideas were suggested including Perry Holbrook State Park, the CCC Road and Sentinel Road. This was a concept suggested for next year.

Youth Adventure Club- Angela Smith (absent due to a prior commitment) plans to lead several youth hikes during the balance of the summer and into the early fall.

Membership – NEKGMC Membership Coordinator Beth Barnes reported that the NEKGMC has 158 memberships of which there are 86 (singles) and 76 (family) totaling 230. Recently, Beth has led several hikes and is interested in leading more often. She also was active on Pisgah during Take A Hike Day and contacted a number of hikers. Beth reported success in speaking with hikers from out-of-state. She found it more productive hiking on the trail as opposed to merely waiting on top. Setting up a table at the trailhead, (permit required but easily acquired) is also a useful informational tool. Cathi has the section's display board that could be used at events. Beth attended a Newport City Farmer's Market to promote the club. John Predom mentioned the idea of a GMC identification at local trailheads.

Trail Adoption – NEKGMC Trail Adopter Kevin Williamson reported that adoption of Cow Mountain Pond Trail may require coordination with the town of Granby. The Moose Mountain adoption is experiencing extenuating circumstances. Middle Mountain North needs an adopter. For the most part, the trails are assigned an adopter. GMC Volunteer and Education Coordinator Lorne Currier is interested in conducting an NEKGMC trail training and workday. Moose Bog maintenance will be

challenging and may require specialized work. The Mad Brook Trail parking access issue remains uncertain, although efforts at improvement are being discussed.

KHT (Kingdom Heritage Trail) Camp Sites – A group from GMC, FPR (Department of Forest Parks and Recreation) and Weyerhaeuser conducted a camp site investigation. One possible site was identified. Weyerhaeuser seems willing to host a site, but there will be conditions on its granting permission.

Wheeler Pond Camp – NEKGMC Vice President Paul Trojano again emphasized the need to push the Beaver Dam project forward as expressed in the previously adopted motion. He will be seeking assistance on the annual firewood project. Paul will be checking with Lake Region High School's community service project. The idea of using volunteers from Sterling College was also suggested.

Other Business – NEKGMC President John Pedom listed on the agenda several local events that he mentioned in passing. These included volunteering at the Westmore Mountain Challenge and the Kingdom Half and Full Marathon (both on September 18), the planned ice cream social at the Silvio Conte Welcome Center (August 14), and the upcoming Board Walk Auto that the Silvio Conte Center is hosting (check its Website for details). On an ongoing matter, he emphasized the need to conduct more local group hikes.

Next Meeting – The next NEKGMC meeting was scheduled for Sunday Oct 24, ideally at Lenny's camp at Holland Pond. Alternatively, it will be held at the Burke Mountain Clubhouse in East Burke.

Adjournment – With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:40 PM,

Submitted by Michael Jay Chernick, NEKGMC Secretary