

## **Northeast Kingdom Section- Green Mountain Club**

**July Quarterly Meeting , Burke Mountain Shelter- East Burke, Vermont, July 12, 2026**

**Attendees** – Cathi Brooks, Michael Chernick, John Predom, Chris Rice, Kevin Williams, and Susan Winsor

**Call to Order & President's Report** – NEK GMC Section President John Predom called the meeting to order at 12:32 P.M. and offered the following comments

Another busy hiking season is upon us. Kevin has been busy recruiting and coordinating trail adopters this Spring and these volunteers have been out getting the trails ready for everyone to hike. The average adopter maintains about 2 ½ miles of trail. Clearing drainage, blowdowns, and brush is time consuming and physical work and we appreciate the commitment and hours these adopters provide.

National Trails Day, June 6th was another fun and successful day. We had a low turnout with only 5 volunteers, but we were able to divide into groups and clear Black Branch, Yellow Branch, Mollie Beattie, Route 105 Moose Viewing, Lewis Pond, and Lewis Pond Overlook boardwalks at Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge and extend the life of these boardwalks. Steve Aguis expressed his appreciation.

Volunteers stepped up again to lead and participate in hikes for Island Pond Trails Day. This event was in celebration of the Kingdom Heritage Trail's seventh anniversary opening. Volunteers led 4 out of 5 hikes, with member volunteers co-leading on all 5 hikes. This event that is co-organized with Brighton Recreation came together smoothly. Thanks to volunteers of the Island Pond Trail Day Committee for making this a seamless event.

Our next BIG event is the Long Trail Day Hike-a-thon! Team Kingdom Express will continue south on the Long Trail, hiking from the Frank Post Trailhead to Tillotson Camp, then south over Belvedere Mountain to Rte 118. Help us do our part to raise money for the Green Mountain Club and join us for the hike!

**Secretary's Report-** The members reviewed the secretary's report. which NEK GMC Secretary Michael Chernick submitted.

Motion to approve the minutes from March 2026 [Cathy Brooks/Sue Winsor]

Approved unanimously

**President's Report Supplement** – As a supplement to John's report Cathi reported on a hike with Maria Young (NWSC) on the Westmore Town Trail which NWSC has populated with new signage.

**Treasurer's Report** -NEK GMC Treasurer Angela Smith's report was reviewed. The report is presented as follows:

Northeast Kingdom Section ~ Green Mountain Club, Quarterly Financial Statement

As of 07/01/2026

Operating Account

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Balance (as of 03/20/2026) | \$2,133.84 |
|--------------------------------------|------------|

Income

Dues Sharing

|     |                             |          |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------|
| Mar | (posted 04/16/26)           | \$143.75 |
| Apr | (posted 05/21/26)           | \$128.75 |
| May | (not yet posted in account) |          |

Expenses

|       |                                                           |          |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 06/27 | Kingdom Embroidery- Hats (hasn't cleared account yet)     | \$260.00 |
| 06/24 | Three Branch- Island Pond                                 | \$141.00 |
| 06/22 | MailChimp                                                 | \$13.00  |
| 06/17 | Check #299 - GMC- Maps                                    | \$89.25  |
| 05/29 | Vista Print                                               | \$76.28  |
| 05/27 | Dot Easy                                                  | \$224.25 |
| 05/27 | Dot Easy                                                  | \$1.79   |
| 05/21 | Dot Easy                                                  | \$42.57  |
| 05/21 | Dot Easy                                                  | \$.34    |
| 05/20 | Mail Chimp                                                | \$13.00  |
| 05/05 | Check # 296 – Burke Mountain Clubhouse Donation           | \$100.00 |
| 05/08 | Check # 297 – Northwoods SC – Donation                    | \$500.00 |
| 04/20 | Mail Chimp                                                | \$13.00  |
| 03/30 | Recur Pay- Front Porch Forum - Plan Year – Burlington, VT | \$108.00 |

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Ending Balance- | \$823.86 |
|-----------------|----------|

Certificate of Deposit

|      |                                   |            |
|------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| CD#1 | ....4489/Matures 01/12/2027 @.40% | \$1,649.55 |
| CD#2 | ....3785/Matures 06/27/2027 @.40% | \$1,789.33 |

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Grand Total All Monies | \$4,262.74 |
|------------------------|------------|

Angela Smith ~ Treasurer

**Board of Director's Report** -NEK GMC Director to the Main Club Cathy Brooks presented highlights from the June 2026 Main Club Board meeting.

Financially, the Club finished a second consecutive year with a surplus. Both the GMC's endowment and net assts experienced significant increases during FY 2026. Total operating income was \$2.28 million (10 1 percent of the budget). Contributions increased 34 percent, exceeding \$1.1 million. Unfortunately, membership decreased 33 percent, reflective of economic challenges for those who are unable to contribute even smaller amounts. Because grants and fees for service income sources were both down during FY 2026, \$427,000 in restricted funds was released for initiatives of the Strategic Conservation Plan. Looming uncertainty with the future of funding for the National Park Service and U. S. Forest Service is on the GMC's radar. A projected FY 2027 GMC surplus of \$60,000 could reduce the impact of federal funding reductions.

The establishment of staff housing in southern Vermont took an important step forward with the Board's allocation of \$ 432,000 from the Wissman Endowment towards the purchase of land in Dorset for this endeavor.

AS of June 1, 2026 the Endowment stood at \$9.4 million. The Club's total net assets were \$18.8 million.

The first set of GMC Bylaw changes were approved at the 2026 Annual Meeting. But these revisions to the Club's governance deferred the issue of the Board's composition until further discussions on the panel's size and the balance of general and section representation.

On the publications side, a new digital End -to-Ender Guide has been issued.

Darn Tough has entered into an agreement to serve as the primary Long Trail Day sponsor.

On the summer season front, in 2026, the field crew will work on updating 10-year Use Value Appraisal programs for various GMC properties, including Wheeler.

**Section Bylaws Committee-** Michael Chernick and Victor Caamano have agreed to serve on a section bylaws committee once all changes from the Main Club are finalized.

**NEKGMC Meeting Schedule & Location** – Steve Farrow (not present) has suggested a central location for the meetings. The suggestion of a Westmore facility was considered. There was discussion of eliminating the summer meeting. Continuing the winter meeting at NWS and the fall meeting at Wheeler are options.

Motion [Sue Winsor /Chris Rice] Eliminate the summer meeting be eliminated (provided that it is permissible according to the Bylaws).

Approved unanimously

**Membership Update** – The most recent membership data with respect to the NEKGMC is as follows:

| Month | Revenue  | New | Recaptured | Retained |
|-------|----------|-----|------------|----------|
| March | \$143,00 | 0   | 3          | 9        |
| April | \$128.75 | 1   | 0          | 8        |
| May   | \$78.75  | 1   | 1          | 4        |

**Camps Update-** Bollards were installed at Wheeler Pond Camps and small changes are being implemented at Jean Haigh Camp to improved access for those with handicaps.

**Outings Review** – Susan Winsor reviewed trips planned, including a Peacham Pond Paddle, a hike on Owls Head hike, and an event in conjunction with the Derby Historical Society.

**Trails & Adoption** – NEKGMC Trails Adoption Coordinator Kevin Williamson mentioned three trails requiring new adopters, including the Victory Basin Boardwalk (need weed wacker and leaf blower), Cow Mountain Trail, and Unknown Pond Trail (could use weed wacking).

**NEK GMC Clothing** – Cathi Brooks has order 20 more baseball caps. She is ordering more large/extra-large aqua shirts (cotton/poli-blend).

Cathi will be selling merchandise at the Westmore Farmer's Market on 7/13.

**Adjournment** – On an unanimous motion the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P. M. with the next meeting at Wheeler Pond Camps on Sunday October 11 in conjunction with a wood stacking weekend.