Northeast Kingdom Section
Green Mountain Club
Quarterly Meeting – Fall 2026

Commencement

- Meeting called to order at 12:11PM on October 11th, 2026
- Location: Jean Haigh Cabin, Barton, VT

Attendance

John Predom (President), Paul Trojano (Vice President), Cathi Brooks (Director to the Main Club), Jeff Morris, Kevin Williamson, Janet Steinert, Julie Rapczynski, Dana Suguin, Linda Caamano

The quorum requirement was satisfied

President's Report

- Successful Long Trail (LT) hike-a-thon fundraiser and hike that reached Route 118 South
- Volunteers readied trails and volunteered the day of the event at the Westmore Challenge, including the Mad Brook Station area
- President John worked at Brighton State Park the entirety of the summer while promoting the Northeast Kingdom (NEK) Section Club

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report from July 12th, 2026, to stand as presented, no changes required

Motion to approve: Janet Steinert
Second: Jeff Morris
All in favor, motion passed

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report as of September 30th, 2026 as presented, see separate report for details
Of note: July 2026 dues sharing deposit not yet received from GMC

GMC Board of Director's Update

- GMC on track for budget and revenue for YTD, bequeaths have prevented drawing into line of credit thus far
- 116th Annual meeting was held June 13th, 2026 at Club Headquarters
- GMC launched the new website https://greenmountainclub.org/

- LT day hike-a-thon fundraiser raised over $30,000 and counting as of 9/1/2026
- Membership:
    - Renewals from 6/13 through 9/1 up 23% from last year
    - Membership goals: Create business membership page, continue community outreach, membership retention, and promotion, follow up on non-renewals, follow up with donors
- Visitor's Center:
    - Emily Mosher (GMC Visitor Services Manager) and Lily LaRegina (GMC Communications Coordinator) partnered with POWDER Magazine to expand equitable access to the outdoors
    - Building on the Hiking 101 program
    - In May offered guided hikes from Barnes Camp Loop and LT to Jay Peak
- Volunteer Program:
    - Opened the Barnes Camp in May
    - Training new volunteer Trail Stewards, Sarah Baily (GMC Field Coordinator) is also training new volunteers
    - Working to expand the Trail Stewardship Program
- Field Programs:
    - Peru Peak Shelter bridge as key accomplishment
    - Finished Belvidere Mountain trail relocation
    - Flood recovery projects at Bloodroot Mountain and Homer Stone Trail
    - Completed updates for new Mount Mansfield Visitor Center
    - New volunteer steward sign at Lincoln Gap through partnership with UVM
    - Wrapping up fall projects with Clara Bow Trail LT intersection and Taft Lodge
    - Proposal submitted for trail section along Dry Ridge
- Camps:

  - 84 reservations filled from 6/1 through 8/31, 49 new reservations between June and August
  - Compost privy run and window maintenance completed at Bolton Camp
  - Next quarter goals: Wheeler Pond Camps maintenance and installation of handicapped bollards in parking area, Bryant Camp wood shed reconstruction, firewood management at all camps to be completed

- Land Conservation:
  - Discussion of purchasing southern terminus housing at Mount Taber, recent donations will allow for only $45K of additional GMC funding needed
  - Approval of $45K would be used toward seasonal employees and retaining employees
  - Training of new Corridor Monitors to update Vermont's Use Value Appraisal (UVA) Forest Management plans
  - Worked with the Aquatic Plant Control program (APC) to complete herbicide treatment of invasive plants at 4 Appalachian Trail (AT) open areas in Pomfret and Shrewsbury

- Land Stewardship:
  - Mollie Klepack Flanigan (GMC Director of Land Conservation) conducting outreach to landowners that have property on the LT
  - More than 90% of LT is on protected land at this time

- Bylaws:
  - Discussion still underway with focus on Board Member responsibilities

New Business

Election of new NEK Section Secretary:
Nominees for Secretary: Chelsea Griswold

Motion that Chelsea Griswold be elected for Secretary: Cathi Brooks
Second: Paul Trojano
All in favor, motion passed
Secretary elected: Chelsea Griswold

Long Trail Day:

- 1st Place: GMC Directors raised: $11,000
  2nd Place: Essex Hikers raised $2,925
  3rd Place: Team Kingdom Express fundraising goal: $2,500, raised: $2,773, 110% of goal
- GMC in total goal: $80,000, raised $72,763, 91% of goal as of September 30th
- Recommendation for Board of Director's to ask if fundraising progress tracker on website can be brought back to see which team is in 1st place for friendly competition

NorthWoods:

- Projects completed with Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation (FPR)
  - South Pisgah trail work underway with relocation of sections
  - Larger Pulpit Rock section will be completed and opened by late summer, it will add 0.5 miles to overall length of trail
  - 2 weeks of work on Wheeler Mountain, a new connection from the Wheeler Mountain trailhead kiosk parking to Moose Mountain trail
  - Trail sustainability improvements to Herbert Hawkes trail on Mount Hor
  - Maintenance of Sentinel Rock Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) trail
- Regional Projects
  - Work in Lyndon State Forest and control of Kingdom Heritage Trail
  - Relocation of North Branch Trail in the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge featuring 2 new bridges relocated to reduce damage during flooding
  - Improvement to the Nulhegan River Trail behind the refuge headquarters and improvements to Moose Mountain, Loon, and Maidstone trails
- 3rd Edition of Northeast Kingdom Mountain Trail Guide to be published this winter after GMC relocation efforts on Belvidere Mountain trail is incorporated with a new map and trail description
- Save the date: Kingdom Heritage Trail Partners Meeting and hike on Friday, November 6th with the goal to hike to one of the priority campsite areas, public comment on the Kingdom Heritage trail corridor manager plan proposal will be open this winter which FPR is currently serving as interim corridor manager and NorthWoods is ready to take on the role when it becomes official

- NorthWoods has worked with FPR to update the corridor manager plan and it is now passing through state review it will be a priority fundraising push from the NorthWoods to establish 1-2 campsites once it takes on the role
- Late October meeting with Keegan of GMC to look at improvements at volunteering coordination work on the upcoming Northern Section of the LT and continued partnership opportunities
- Brousseau Mountain Trail has protection and acquisition by town of Norton and NorthWoods will be seeking funds for estimated 3 weeks of work on the mountain trail not in queue for state funds
- The chickadee challenge has been shared with the public and is a year-round family tradition and invites those to visit lesser-known destinations and there are hard-copies of the challenge information sheet at NorthWoods
- This winter grooming contract for the Willoughby State Forest for Bartlett Mountain CCC roads
- The state is down a snow machine and hoops to jump through to get one in time for winter
- NorthWoods plans to have winter open-lodge on Saturdays in January and February with ski and snowshoe rentals available at the East Charleston Campus

<u>Forest Park Recreation (FPR):</u>

2026 Work:

- Pisgah South Trail relocations with one portion still to be completed summer 2027
- Wheeler Mountain work to improve trail quality which will continue summer 2027, rock-climbing access improvement, and a new parking area on Wheeler Mountain Road
- Lyndon State Forest trails renovated and new footbridge installed at the southern property portion
- The Moose Bog Trail was renovated which included grade adjustments for improved accessibility
- NorthWoods crew worked on the Kingdom Heritage Trail on the north side of Middle Mountain and northern end of Bluff Ridge and work will continue summer 2027

- Trail relocation was started on Big Deer Mountain Trail in Groton State Forest and work will continue summer 2027

2027 Plans:

- Rehabilitate kiosks across the district
- Complete Pisgah South Trail and Deer Mountain Trail relocation
- Maintain upper Gore Mountain East Trail with NorthWoods and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
- Continue trail adjustments on Mount Hor
- Replace boardwalk at Peacham Bog
- Renovate trail paint blazes on roughly 15 miles of trail

Silvio O. Conte:

- NorthWoods had a crew this summer reroute a Northern Section of the North Branch Trai. The new trail avoids 3rd bridge that was routinely washed out by the North Branch of the Nulhegan River
- NorthWoods will have a 2-person crew working on the Nulhegan River Trail the week of October 5th
- North Branch bridge on 4-mile-road was replaced and all roads on the refuge are open to vehicle access
- NEK Section of GMC asked for volunteers to clean the boardwalks this fall once leaves are down; multiple leaf blowers will be needed as previous year batteries ran out and it was difficult to clean by hand

Westmore Town Forest:

- Funding obtained to complete a dedication plan and put up new informational signs
- Vermont Youth Conservation Core (VYCC) completed work and raised funds for a new kiosk
- Westmore town forest trail adopter is Gabriel Carter

NEK Section Membership Report

	New	Recaptured	Retained
June 2026	0	0	7

July 2026	1	1	7
August 2026	0	0	6

Newsletter

- Data shows that 1/3 of individuals are reading the newsletter
- Janet Steinert requesting pictures and trips reports to include such as "What I did this summer" with pictures and description of activity

Camps

- All firewood stacking is completed at Wheeler Camps with help from North Country High School and those at the Wood Stacking Weekend event
- St. Johnsbury Academy students to help finish cleaning up of the cabins
- Looking into 6-foot runner/mat for winter to minimize damage to floors of cabins
- Discussion with Justin and Ward on smoke detectors for the annual inspection as well as the chimney inspection that occurs annually
- Ongoing discussion regarding high usage of the septic and issues with this
- Last winter it took 1-2 replenishments of seasoned wood to refill the camps and discussion of supporting Paul with this and also flagging off green wood versus seasoned wood in the woodshed
- Hazel camp needs updates or discussion on suggesting rental price decrease
- Fall 2027 wood stacking weekend to be planned after Columbus Day weekend

Outings Committee

- Julie Rapczynski and Steve Ragno are the new NEK Section outings coordinators
- Goals to arrange events at least twice a month, if there are specific interests to let the outings coordinators know
- Over 8 people for an event needs 2 leaders, one of which is a sweeper
- July Events: North Branch Trail hike occurred, Peacham Pond paddle event was cancelled

  August Events: Clyde River Clean up and Fosters Pond Paddle

September Events: LT Day, Flagging Westmore Challenge, Mad Brook Aid Station

October Events: Golden Road hike, Wood-stacking weekend, Owl's Head hike

November Events: Big Deer Mountain hike

December Events: Still in planning stage

Trails & Adoption

- Trails without adopters: Mad Brook, Unknown Pond, Cow Mountain Pond, Gnome Stairs Trail
- Steve Agius of Silvio O. Conte is looking for support cleaning off the boardwalks at Lewis Pond, Yellow Branch, Black Branch, the Overlook, and Mollie Beattie

Section Bylaws Committee

- Victor and Julia are still working on the bylaws and it is currently at a stand-still as GMC is still deciding on updates

Other Business

- NEK Section meeting frequency was discussed at the summer meeting and it was decided there would be the Fall meeting (at Wheeler Camps), the Winter meeting (at NorthWoods), and the Spring meeting will be the annual GMC meeting
    - The 4th meeting was canceled but discussion on whether the quarterly treasurer report will be discussed at the following meeting from the previous quarter or not
- When funds are available, John created a banner outline (with plans to create a banner) to be able to put up at our tent at events such as the Westmore Challenge

NEK GMC Clothing

- No new orders due to lack of funding for purchase at this time
- Emily Mosher of GMC gave contact information of shirt company she uses
- Facebook post to be put up to try and get some orders of current inventory for the holiday season

Next Meeting

- Winter 2027: January 10th, 2027 at 1:00PM

- Location: NorthWoods Stewardship Center, Charleston, VT

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Janet Steinert
Second: Linda Caamano

- Meeting adjourned at 1:17PM on October 11, 2026

Northeast Kingdom Section ~ Green Mountain Club

Quarterly Financial Statement

As of 09/30/2026

Operating Account

Beginning Balance (as of 07/01/26)			**$823.86**
Income			
Dues Sharing			
	May	**(posted 07/02/26)**	**$78.75**
	Jun	**(posted 07/28/26)**	**$85.00**
	Jul	**(not yet posted in account- emailing main club)**	
	Aug	**(posted 09/29/26)**	**$80.00**
Expenses			
07/07 Check # 300 - Kingdom Embroidery- Hats			**$100.00**
****Reported last quarter as $260.00 Should have been $360.00****			
07/20 Mail Chimp			**$13.00**
08/20 Mail Chimp			**$13.00**
09/10 Mail Chimp			**$13.00**
09/30 Check # 301 – John Predom- Reimb WC- Snacks			**$241.74**
Ending Balance			**$686.87**

Certificate of Deposit

CD#1	**….4489/Matures 01/12/2027 @.40%**	**$1,659.36**
CD#2	**….3785/Matures 06/27/2027 @.40%**	**$1,800.57**

Grand Total All Monies **$4,146.80**

Angela Smith ~ Treasurer