

Green Mountain Club - Burlington Section
Minutes from the Annual Meeting, February 7, 2015
Faith United Methodist Church, South Burlington, VT

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM.

Ted Albers made opening remarks and welcomed new members to the club and introduced Mike DeBonis, Executive Director. Mike provided news from the GMC, including staff updates, and progress on the Winooski Bridge and Long Trail relocation, and plans to restore Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp.

Ted gave Mike an original scrapbook of historical records from the GMC Burlington Section dating from 1933 to about 1941. Ted read several entertaining passages. These are to be turned over to the History and Archive committee for review and storage.

Business:

The membership approved minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 8, 2014 as submitted by Mary Keenan, Secretary, without discussion.

Treasurer's report:

Joel Tilley reported that the section is in good shape financially. In 2014, the total income was \$1,825 more, and the operating expenses were \$423 less, than budgeted. We received generous bequests from long-time members Peter Alden and Mary (Forester) Payne. Mary Payne's \$25,000 bequest was put into CD's. We have a projected surplus that may be applied to future projects. The Burlington Section donated \$500 for Taft Lodge repairs and \$2,000 from the Holmes fund for the GMC archives project. Ridge Lines is costing slightly less to produce. The membership approved the 2015 budget as proposed by Treasurer Joel Tilley.

Director's report:

Ted reported that December 2014 snow damaged the Catamount Trail in App. Gap area. Because of heavy use on the southern section of the Long Trail /Appalachian Trail, a full-time southern field assistant was hired. A challenge is to secure funding to keep Long Trail Patrol staffing levels up. Fund-raising for the Bolton and Bryant Camps is progressing. Several trail relocation are on-going, including around the new Winooski bridge. The Long Trail Patrol continued flagging Stimson north to move the Bolton Woods LLC easement toward completion. Also, the Smugglers Notch relocation was cut by LT Patrol last summer but not yet opened. Work will be completed this summer on a boardwalk across Notch Brook just north of Barnes Camp in Smugglers Notch. There was a ceremonial "First Crossing" of Winooski Bridge by Daan Zwick in December.

Membership report:

Dot Myer reported that the Burlington Section now has 746 memberships, many of which are families making the total number of members is 1,059. This is slightly less than 2014 (1,092 members).

Outings report:

Paul Houchens acknowledge trip leaders who lead 4 trips or more. David Hathaway led an astonishing 15. Carlene Squires 5, Robynn Albert 6, Carollee Reynolds 5, Ted Albers 7, Phil Hazen 4, Sherri Larsen 4, Russ Kinaman 5, Dot Myer 8, Rich Larsen 4, Wes Volk 9. Pam Gillis and John Sharp led 5 well-attended work hikes. The Burlington Section led over 100 outings included day hikes, backpacking trips, paddling, biking and nature walks. The membership was reminded that almost anyone can lead an outing of their choosing. Leaders for easier outings are especially needed.

Young Adventurer's Club (YAC) report:

Ted gave brief report for Kelley who will start leading trips again in the spring (congratulations on a new baby!) Kelley is continuing to coordinate with the Winooski Valley Parks to host a series of engaging outings for children.

Ridgelines report:

Maeve requested that ideas or articles on your favorite side trail be submitted, along with your recommendations for good trail food.

Shelters report:

Linda Evans reports that all six shelters (and one campsite) in our area are still standing. Shelters adopters are out doing their job and she thanked them for their service. Adopters are a self-reliant bunch who don't need any micro-management. I'd like to

thank them:

Jeff Bostwick – Puffer
Jonathon Boyson – Butler
Scott Buckingham – Twin Brooks
David & Zack Ellenbogen – Taylor
Kerstin Lange – Duck Brook
John Abbott & UVM Outdoors Club – Taft
Brian Youngberg – Buchanan

There will be a shift in coverage when the Long Trail is relocated away from Duck Brook (which is on private land) to Stimson Mountain. GMC acquisition and renovation of the historical lodges of Bryant Camp and Bolton Lodge, in the Bolton area is underway. The historic camps will be maintained and rented out by a Shelters committee at the GMC.

Education report:

Wes Volk has filled this position which. Wes talked about ideas for reaching out to schools, including education programming and outings, and continuing with several specific trips such as history walks, birding, wildflower walks, and the map and compass workshops. Anyone with recommendations or who are able to lead an 'educational' outing please contact Wes.

Trails report:

Pam Gillis gave her 25th trail report. We did 303 hours of trail work in 2014.

We had 5 trail work hike outings with an average of 10 per outing. Pam thanked those that went out on the outings. 18 turned out on three work hikes so we split into 3 groups. There were trees down in some areas, but not as many as expected. Next season, we may see a lot down in low elevations since we did have heavy, wet snow. Special thanks to Phil Hazen, Rick Manning, Max Seaton, and Scott Albertson, each on 3 outings. (John Sharp and Pam each did 4 of the 5 outings.) With the new bridge, we will have a new section of trail and the Jonesville to Bolton Notch Road will be a blue blazed side trail. The official trail and bridge opening is at this year's GMC annual meeting, so this spring we will do our normal trail work.

Website (www.gmcburlington.org) report:

Dave Hathaway has taken a major role in adding content and improving the site, which now gets 40 -100 visitors a day. Joe Sikowitz has also been adding material related to marketing and communication. Many trip leaders contribute reports and photos, which add a lot to the site's appeal. It's the place to check before an outing to see if anything has changed.

The Secretary made a motion to accept slate of candidates. It was seconded and approved without discussion:

The slate of candidates is:

- President Ted Albers
- Vice President – vacant
- Secretary – Mary Keenan
- Treasurer – Joel Tilley
- Membership – Dot Myer
- Ridge Lines – Maeve Kim
- Shelters – Linda Evans
- Annual Meeting – vacant
- Marketing & Communications – Joe Sikowitz
- Education – Wes Volk
- Special Programs & Taylor Series – vacant
- Section Historian – Dot Myer
- Outings – Paul Houchens, Dave Hathaway
- Outings YAC – Kelley Christie
- Trails – Pam Gillis, John Sharp
- Website – Dave Hathaway
- Director – Ted Albers

New business:

Wes Volk presented some education ideas – plant identification, birding, fauna, history, geology. Survival techniques (fire building), navigation, GPS use, reach out to schools and do educational hikes. Carollee Reynolds is working on a partnership with UVM Wellness.

Ted presented Dot Myer with a book featuring some of her outings in recognition of Dot's 50 plus years of contributions to the GMC. Dot has been a member since 1956. Ted reviewed some of Dot's accomplishments including Dot being the first women to climb the 111 peaks in the Northeast.

The Business meeting adjourned at 7:25PM.

Ted played a short video of long time supporter Daan Zwick crossing the new Winooski Bridge. It was followed by a presentation from Rich Larsen on his "Hiking Colorado's 100 Highest." Rev. 1/28/16