

Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association  
Board and Member Meeting – June 11, 2017  
At the Carrabassett Valley Town Park

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., following a cookout lunch with grilled foods by Joe Loughran, and contributions by members, who either contributed a food dish or \$5 per person.

Present: Board members: Joe Loughran, Bonnie Farrar, Gail Miller, Cindy Foster, Neal Trask, Glenn Bickford, Betsy Chapman, Jim Heichel, Mark Curtis, Rick Young, Al Sleight; Managers: Pat McBrien, TL Regan; members-at-large: Greg Foster, Bob Farrar, John McCatherin, Barb Kovach, Peggy Bickford, Tiffany Mitchell.

Secretary's Report (Cindy Foster)

- The minutes from the March 18 Annual Dinner Meeting were mentioned as having no matters of interest other than the election of officers and directors; it was agreed to suspend with reading the minutes.
- We have approximately 455 memberships representing 845 members. Of those numbers, 266 of the memberships include at least one range member, and 382 are range members. Compared to 2016, the numbers are about the same. Compared to 2015, today's numbers are where 2015 ended up.
- Cindy introduced TL Regan, our Membership Manager. He will receive applications from online, or paper applications by mail or by emailed photos of the applications. Then he will update our Access database of members, as well as update the necessary information in Constant Contact so members will receive the appropriate newsletters and notices. Many thanks to TL for taking on this job.
- Trip Leaders should check with Cindy or TL to be sure their participants are members.

Treasurer's Report (Gail Miller)

- Gail thanked everyone for their support in light of her broken leg.
- Finances are on target with the budget.
- The Finance Committee of five members has now met twice and has formulated some guidelines.
  - Gail gave a brief description of the committee's purpose and responsibilities: provide support to the treasurer and establish policies that will help secure the long-term financial health of our organization.
  - A few questions were asked and answered, such as: the committee will not be making financial decisions, but will make recommendations to the board; the committee meetings are not open to the general membership, unless invited.
  - A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Finance Committee Guidelines as presented.
- Charitable Contributions – the Finance Committee recommends that “any funds that were available for charitable contributions but go unspent in that year, the unspent funds are carried over to the next year”. The motion was moved and seconded.
  - There was considerable discussion about the matter: the funds would continue to grow, which presents its own concerns and issues; the Charitable Contributions policy and

practice is quite new, and we should have more history before making any changes to the policy.

- The motion was defeated by a wide margin.
- The Finance Committee is receptive to suggestions and input on charitable contributions, spending of capital reserves, member support, and any other matters of financial interest.
- The Finance Committee needs a new member in September to fill the seat that Glenn Bickford will vacate when he heads south for the winter.
- Cindy recommended that Gail submit newsletter articles about the work of the Finance Committee and charitable contributions.
- Gail thanked Webmaster Pat McBrien for his continued work on our website.

#### Range Report (Neal Trask)

- The 5-stand project is in process.
- Business has been good.
- The range received another payment from the IF&W 5-stand grant. A matching grant of \$15,000 is available from the Town of Carrabassett Valley.
- We are working on a grant to pay for the “Berm Project” – the berms on the shooting range need to be built up as a state requirement for safety.
- When we have a project funded by a grant, we follow a process of application for the grant, approval, and reimbursement. CVOA funds the project and gets reimbursed by the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Waterways. When we submit expenses to be reimbursed, the value of donated time and materials is included. Detailed records are kept of the volunteer hours put into the project, and an appropriate labor rate is assigned to those hours.

#### Adventure Committee (Betsy Chapman)

- Upcoming events include: Victory Chimes June 27-July 1; Schoodic Woods Camping July 13-15, with Glenn and Peggy Bickford; South Bristol Cove Day July 22 at Fosters'; Grandparents' Day July 29, Susan Fraser; Dead River Paddle August 13, Gail and Joe; Skydiving Sept. 8, Joe Loughran.
- Looking into a fall bike trip.
- Ski Trips: Copper Mountain 37 signed up, Banff/Lake Louise 36 signed up, Schweitzer 4 signed up.
- Next year we will return to Sky Lodge June 15-17, 2018.

#### Hiking Guides

The question came up about ordering more Hiking Guides, which are bought in lots of 100. We are almost sold out. The hiking guide is becoming outdated, and it might be time to do a revision. CVOA makes some money from sales of the guide, but not a great amount for the work involved. However, the guide is a nice contribution to the outdoors community, and offers publicity for CVOA. A motion was made, seconded and passed to discontinue ordering the current hiking guide and form a committee to work on a revised version.

#### Introductions and Recognitions

- TL Regan, our new Membership Manager
- Al Sleight, new board member

- Pat McBrien, our web master
- Steve Smith, our new Social Media Manager (Steve was unable to be at the meeting.) Joe commented that there will be a process for posting information on the CVOA Facebook page. This is a big step forward in communication and outreach. It may be a way to reach a younger crowd.
- John McCatherin reminded us that the Irregular is a good communication tool for the Sugarloaf Community.

#### Outdoor Center Pond (Joe)

- Joe has met with member Skip Stinson and biologist Sonny Pierce, who are very involved with the Outdoor Center Pond, and this low impact recreational activity is a good thing. CVOA has contributed \$300 a year for several years for stocking the pond with fish. Fishing people are asked to fill out a card at the pond to provide information to the biologist as to the health of the fish, but not many people fill out the cards. Sonny is studying the health of the fish and the pond so as to measure the value of restocking, for instance.
- Joe is looking for 10 volunteers to fish an hour a week through the summer, and to fill out the cards.
- There is a new dock and float system at the pond that was built for the Outdoor Adaptive Education Center, and it makes the pond more accessible for everyone.

#### Range Leadership (Joe)

Joe has been meeting with Neal and others on the range committee to discuss how we can lighten the load for Neal, who puts in so many hours for the range. Range leadership and volunteer positions have been broken down to four categories:

1. Events – special events, kids programs, Homecoming, etc.
2. Operations
3. Maintenance
4. Finance and Grants

Work is in progress to develop these committees to take over responsibilities as Neal wishes to delegate.

#### Longfellow Mountain Heritage Trail – (Glenn)

Glenn updated us that the trail project, from Kingfield to Coburn Gore, is in process. Developer Larry Warren has met with our committee as part of his efforts to raise awareness and community support for the trail. Current committee members John Morey, Peggy Bickford, and Glenn Bickford will communicate more information to the association as the trail develops. At this time, additional committee members are needed.

There was no Old Business.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

The next meeting will be held at a date and location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted

Cindy Foster, CVOA Secretary

With thanks to Peggy Bickford for taking notes.