

MATC Executive Committee Meeting  
Saturday, January 9, 2010  
University of Maine at Augusta

Present: President, Lester Kenway; Vice-president, Tony Barrett; Secretary, Janice Clain; Treasurer, Elsa Sanborn; Directors, Dennis Andrews, Bob Cummings, Bill Eddy, Bruce Grant, Bill Millis, Don Stack; District Overseers, Dick Fecteau, Tom Gorrill, Peter Roderick, Rick Ste. Croix, Julian Wiggins; Overseer of Lands, Dave Field; Club Coordinator, Holly Sheehan; Historian and Guidebook Editor, Ray Ronan; Finance Committee Chair, and Wind Power Committee Chair, Tom Lewis,; Development Committee Chair, Tim Fortune; Campsite Committee Chair, Laura Flight; Personnel Committee Chair, Sara Donovan; Guests, Ron Dobra, Michelle Moody, Stan Moody, Dain Trafton, Pete Antos Ketchum, Rick Renner (by phone).  
Absent: Corresponding Secretary, Steve Clark; Directors, Craig Dickstein, Steve Gaffney.

President Lester Kenway called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. He announced that the focus of the day's meeting would be the club's committee structure.

**Secretary's Report:** Janice Clain presented the Secretary's report of the November 6, 2009, meeting. Executive Committee members received an amended version of the minutes, with some corrections based on communications from those who had attended the meeting.

Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Don Stack, to accept the revised minutes. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Treasurer's Report:** Elsa Sanborn presented the Treasurer's report, which Executive Committee Members had received, and called for questions. Hearing none, Don Stack placed a motion, seconded by Bill Millis, to accept the Treasurer's report. The vote of the Executive Committee was unanimous.

**2010-2011 Budget:** Tom Lewis presented the preliminary draft of the budget for fiscal year 2010 - 2011. The Finance Committee will meet in February to finalize the budget proposal and will bring it to the March meeting of the Executive Committee and then to the Annual Meeting in April. Tom explained that the proposed \$170,000 budget does not include expenses for a new base camp or for wind power opposition costs. The most important changes are reductions in the CARE allocation, to reflect a change from five to three seasonal positions, and a change in Maine Trail Crew, which will rely on seasonal Student Conservation Association and ATC volunteers. Club Coordinator Holly Sheehan's salary is distributed according to the time she spends in her various duties; 55% to general administration, 30% to CARE and 15% for the Maine Trail Crew.

On the topic of sources of income, Tom noted that ATC funding for the Trail Crew is not secure at this point. 64% of club revenues currently come from public

sources, a slight increase over last year, and 36% are from private sources, including sales of guidebooks and individual donations. In 1999, 68% of revenue was from private sources and 32% from public entities. The Finance Committee has made an effort to bring in more private money. Tom recommends aiming for half of club funding sources coming from private sources, to secure unrestricted funding.

Tom also noted that the club has built its net assets balance since 2005, and club equity stands at \$425,000.

There was no action to be taken at the time of this meeting.

Lester asked for an explanation of the Stewardship Fund. Tom explained that the Executive Committee established the fund in 1997 and set criteria in 2000. The purpose of the account is to provide long term funding for operations by maintaining an account level near \$250,000 from which investment and interest income can be dedicated to operations. The program created the Myron Avery Society, whose goal is to build up a stewardship account through direct and aggressive appeal to major donors. The appeal brings in about \$25,000 per year.

Tony Barrett asked for an explanation of the reduction in total sources of cash since last year. Tom explained that Maine Heritage Trust has dropped its financial support for the club. Piscataquis and Franklin counties have contributed funds in the past to support the CARE program; this funding was not available this year but may be restored in the future. Timing of our application was an issue, as well as funding to the counties from their sources. Bruce Grant suggested that MATC invite these groups to join our partners' hike next fall. Lester and Tony have already talked with Matt Stevens about including in that event more groups that are directly involved with the trail.

**Committee Structure:** Tony Barrett distributed a listing of all MATC committees, their meeting schedule and membership. He reviewed the list and asked for clarification and updates on activity. In several cases there was only one member of the committee, and Tony questioned if that committee chair should be designated a coordinator. In other cases, there was a call to review the charge of the committee and to reactivate.

The Wind Power Committee is a relatively new committee, but its role is becoming more and more important. The Executive Committee reviewed the charge of this committee at a recent meeting.

The Training and Education Committee has been inactive. Craig Dickstein has served as a coordinator for training programs, particularly for sawyers. Holly Sheehan noted that LNT training is offered through the CARE program. Dave Field offers training for Corridor Monitors on a regular basis. Though the Local Management Plan designates training for maintainers as part of the duties of this committee, that has not happened recently. Tony recommends workshops to improve maintainer skills.

The Trail Crew Committee is comprised of several MATC members who live close enough to base camp to be of assistance with setting up and packing away facilities. It also automatically includes all district overseers. In fact, the overseers are included as members of several committees, as the work of those committees directly impacts them. There was a question from Bill Millis as to whether each district has a designated

assistant overseer. Dave Field said that the club by-laws call for an assistant. Lester asked for an update from overseers on this matter.

The Personnel Committee has lost two members, so is currently undermanned. Sara Donovan, current committee chair, asked for input on when to evaluate the Club Coordinator. Tom Lewis recommended that the evaluation be completed in time to include salary recommendations in the budget. The Personnel Committee will meet in January and make recommendations to the Finance Committee before that body finalizes the budget.

The Membership Committee is currently one person, Barbara Gorrill. She keeps track of membership and works with the Development Committee. The task for the Membership Committee, according to the Local Management Plan, is also to provide an orientation for new members and give recognition for members' service. Bill Millis asked if these tasks shouldn't be carried out by a committee, rather than by one person. Bruce Grant noted that the National Park Service sponsors a service for new volunteers, including pins and certificates, and MATC has not made use of it. He recommended that the club follow up on new members to be sure they get involved. Peter Roderick said that he is in charge of the MATC volunteer recognition program. He asked for a list from district overseers of individuals who should receive recognition for years of service. Ray Ronan said he and Holly Sheehan were on the Membership Committee when Barbara Clark was the chair, and asked if Barbara Gorrill would like them to continue in that capacity.

The Kennebec River Committee meets once a year and is relatively self-sufficient.

The Guidebook Committee is designated as three to five people who review and revise the guidebook. Ray Ronan heads the committee, and says that he has been working with Peter Hedrich to establish some continuity. They planned to meet the second week in January. Lester reminded that the primary role of MATC is that of a public service agency. For that reason, it is better to have a group working on a project rather than an individual. He also suggested that paper guidebooks will eventually be replaced by a digital format, to meet the needs of the up-coming hiking community. MATC should be proactive in moving toward a new format. He also reminded the group that all changes and improvements have started in Maine and then been adopted by ATC, and we need to continue this trend.

The Finance Committee meets twice a year to prepare a budget for the club. Tom Lewis, who is the current chair, suggested that the committee may want to provide more oversight of the budget throughout the year, to ensure that its proposals are carried out. He said the committee would discuss this suggestion at its next meeting. He will also initiate a conversation on the sources of revenue and format of the guidebook, as mentioned earlier in the day's session.

The duties of the Emergency Management Committee are to plan for future situations. Dave Field has been the chair of that committee, which will now become a coordinator position. Dave said he would welcome any other volunteer who would like to take on this position.

The purpose of the Development Committee is to promote the club and to attract new members. This committee directs the annual appeal and its efforts will sustain the club. The web site plays a major role in informing and educating the public, and David Theoharides efforts there have been very helpful. Some members suggested that the club move to new social networking media as a way to attract younger members. In fact, there is already a Facebook site for the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. Michelle Moody suggested further coordination between the Development, Training and Education, and Membership Committees, to seek means to let people know what opportunities and benefits are available.

The Communication Committee was formed two years ago as an ad hoc committee. It was on the agenda for later in the day. Bob Cummings noted that the club will have to decide if the MAINEtainer will continue to be a paper publication or if it should move to a digital format. He remarked that both the newsletter and the web site are dependent on other club members sending information.

Dave Field said he has never had a committee to oversee the Corridor Monitor Program; that work falls to the Overseer of Lands. In his capacity as Overseer of Lands, Dave also conducts training for Corridor Monitors.

The CARE Committee is one of the most active, but it has no chair. The members of the committee think that works fine, but Lester said it's hard to maintain communications when he has to contact all the members of the committee rather than just one leader. He called for the members of the committee to designate a chair. Others suggested membership list for the committee should be reviewed.

The Bigelow Preserve Committee dates to the time of Chris Wolfe and John Neff. Dick Fecteau said that, as Bigelow District Overseer, he was told he was on the committee. At this time, the duties of the committee have been transferred to the District Overseer.

The Baxter State Park Committee is really a liaison position. It meets once a year for a dialogue between MATC and Baxter State Park officials.

Bill Millis asked if there is a Historical Preservation Committee. The answer was that this is a coordinator position.

Laura Flight said she is comfortable with the LMP description of the Campsite Committee and with her position as chairperson. She suggested a review of the roles of sub-committees and of individual members. She also stated that communications are an impediment. Lester reminder her and other Executive Committee members that club now has access to a teleconferencing account. Bruce Grant mentioned that ATC is using Skype communication to good effect, and offered help and advice with that system.

**Green Mountain Club Headquarters Building:** Pete Antos-Ketcham, Facilities Manager for the Green Mountain Club headquarters, presented the history and an overview of that group's visitor center, in Waterbury, Vermont. The GMC wanted to establish a central location for storage of trail maintenance equipment, sales of merchandise, and meeting space for various groups and events. They also hoped to attract more members and volunteers by offering an attractive and convenient headquarters. In 1992 they bought and renovated an old farm, only to have a large

portion of it destroyed by fire. The club then established a planning committee to investigate various possibilities for rebuilding. This committee solicited input from several parties, and was convinced that "going green" was a priority. The club then began a "Second Century" capital campaign, to celebrate the history of the organization, draw in the public for the purpose of showcasing their trail work, and to attract new members. In three years, the campaign raised \$5.25 million, of which \$1.8 million eventually was dedicated to the building of the new headquarters. They worked with a Maine firm to carry out the capital campaign, and they sent their officers out to personally contact donors. Pete could not say what percentage of the funds raised came from major donors.

To stay true to the "green" goals, the club partnered with a non-profit family forest products company that harvested the raw materials within wood certification policy. As much as possible, they used volunteer labor, although Pete noted that this was more a good PR move than a cost saving measure, and it gave volunteers a sense of involvement and ownership. The club also hired a construction manager to coordinate all the sub-contractors.

Pete gave a virtual tour of the building, which includes meeting, office, sales and storage space, and a display area for information about the club and its work on the Long Trail. He pointed out the solar photovoltaic cells mounted on the roof, which have the possibility for expansion. He was most proud when explaining the wood gasification system, which heats a large amount of water with a small amount of wood, and of the composting toilets.

Pete spoke to the issue of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. He said their building meets LEED green certification standards, but that the club chose not to pay the extra money to go through the certification process. He said they chose green elements with an eye to future savings.

Pete recommended the following: establish endowment funds to support all facets of the organization, in particular for care of long-term expenses; set the design in advance, and not make major changes during the building process; plan the building first and then begin the capital campaign; use local materials to reduce the carbon footprint.

Pete said the club did go over budget, so had to take out a mortgage. They also set up a Current Use Program for timber harvesting on their property to help offset other expenses.

**Trail Crew Base Camp Proposal:** Following Pete's presentation, Lester gave an update on plans to establish a permanent base camp for MATC, beginning with a brief history of the Maine Trail Crew and its previous and current base camps. Over the past two years, a committee of interested club members has investigated a number of possible sites for a permanent base camp. In September, the Executive Committee authorized this Base Camp Committee to enter into negotiation with the Somerset Woods Trustees for a piece of land on the Malbon Mills Road outside Skowhegan. Somerset Woods said they prefer to lease their land rather than sell, and set very favorable terms; a 99 year lease with no fees due for the first half of the time period.

As required by SWT, MATC presented a conceptual site plan on November 30, 2009, which SWT accepted at a meeting on December 15. Somerset Woods then prepared a lease proposal, which Lester received on January 7, 2010, for MATC to consider. Lester said that we will review the lease "in house", with advice from Drummond and Woodsum legal services. Once the lease is in place and signed, MATC will need to refine its building plan and begin raising funds. Lester again brought up the topic of LEED certified construction, which architect Richard Renner would address later in the meeting.

The tentative plan includes 50 solar panels, a vegetated roof, a solar drying room for equipment, a workshop with a three bay garage with drive-through capability. The site includes six cabins that sleep six each, as well as two parking areas and a long driveway that will necessitate a fairly steep grade. When asked how much the project will cost, Lester estimated \$2 million for the site and approximately \$.5 million for the main building. He said nothing is "set in stone", and that it's better to aim for the high side to ensure good quality.

By phone Richard Renner spoke to the Executive Committee and offered his advice on building plans. In response to the questions "What is green design?" Mr. Renner explained that planning minimizes or eliminates environmental impacts. The US Green Building Council has established LEED (Leadership in Environmental Energy Design) standards to provide a stable and impartial third party reference and certification standard. This is a template to guide the design process leading to better building practices. The LEED process is predicated on a point system for meeting certain criteria: to reduce the negative impact on land (light, using an already developed site); water efficiency built into the landscape design and with a plan for waste water; energy and atmosphere efficiency; use of materials and resources, to reduce the adverse environmental effect of building; indoor environmental quality (presence of toxins); thermal comfort; innovation in architectural plan; regional priority. All aspects of design are made with these points in mind. The process entails "hard costs" in design and construction and "soft costs" for administrative fees to register and document the application and to evaluate the designated standards. Rick highlighted the following advantages to LEED certification:

- provides a comprehensive framework for the design process for a team unfamiliar with the standards

- offers public relations credibility

- satisfies some funding resources that favor or even require LEED certification
- may make renting or selling easier as it adds market value

After making this long explanation of the LEED pros and cons, Rick said that a knowledgeable design team can do a more responsible job without subjecting the project to the LEED certification process. He added that a building may lose its LEED certification if the actual construction doesn't meet the computer models. He also emphasized that durability and ongoing costs to maintain a building are of utmost importance.

To a question from Tony Barrett regarding the necessity for contractors to understand the concepts of the design, Rick responded that those who construct the

building MUST understand the process and materials needed to arrive at the intentions of the designers. He added that only a few builders are committed, qualified and experienced with green design.

Lester announced that the Base Camp Committee will meet again on January 21 to discuss details of the plan. Several attendees had questions about the format of crew housing, about whether the facility would be rented to other groups in the off season, and about the possibility of using passive solar design. Lester said these are questions that the committee will discuss before finalizing its recommended plan. He also acknowledged that we may need to “think big” in order to attract funding. Tom Lewis seconded Lester’s statement, saying that a new building would broaden club membership. Elsa added that, given the 99 year lease, we aren’t building for the present but for future generations, and so need to keep those needs in mind.

**Wind Power:** Tom Lewis spoke to the latest developments in the wind power project slated by Independence Wind in the Highlands region. The developers filed a LURC application on December 18 for a 48 unit project, producing 3000 mgw and located within the expedited areas designated by the Governor’s Task Force on Wind Power. The site is within the 8-mile scenic view shed of a state or national scenic viewpoint, namely the Appalachian Trail and the Bigelow Preserve. The legislation passed as a result of these expedited lands creates specific time limits for LURC to review the proposal and to hear public testimony.

In discussions with the MATC Wind Power Committee, it has been clear that Independence Wind wants the club’s support, and is willing to make concessions (mitigation), mostly away from this site. The Wind Power Committee has also talked with a number of other groups, including the Bureau of Public Lands, AMC, and a new organization called the Friends of the Highland Mountains. The National Park Service and ATC have voiced their opposition, but Pam Underhill is looking to MATC for guidance and probably will let the club handle this as we want. The Natural Resources Council of Maine is considering stating its objections to this project. Steve Clark is also contacting the West Carry Pond Camp Owners Association. This project also impinges on the Arnold Trail, and supporters of that historic pathway may also become involved.

To a question from Bruce Grant as to whether we would consider filing a lawsuit to oppose fast tracking, Tom replied that the expedited status of unorganized territories is now a law, but that there are efforts underway to force reconsideration of the law on the grounds that the manner by which it was enacted was unconstitutional.

Tom also stated that more people are beginning to realize that wind turbine constructions have a negative impact on the environment, though our own objections in this case are based purely on the visual impact. Tom states that our objections will be most effective if we articulate what it is that we oppose and why, that we specify which parts of the project are objectionable and that we support our opposition with credible documentation. Dain Trafton, a member of the Wind Power Committee, offered support to Tom’s statements. He said the legislature recognized the negative impacts of wind power farms on the wild and scenic places in Maine, and even mentioned the AT by name.

After a lengthy presentation, Bob Cummings placed a motion, seconded by Dick Fecteau, that the MATC opposes the Highlands Wind Power Project. The sixteen members of the MATC Executive Committee in attendance approved the motion. (Three members were absent.)

**Wind Power Finances:** Given the official move to oppose this wind power project, the Wind Power Committee sought authorization for the expenditures necessary to conduct the campaign. Tom Lewis and Tony Barrett will meet with Bill Plouffe to discuss organization. Drummond and Woodsum will serve as legal counsel. Jean Vessering of the US Forest Service is preparing a visual review and expert testimony, which will incur costs. Pam Underhill is continuing with plans for a visual impact study through ATC. Steve Clark is looking to secure some other sources of funding, but the cost estimates for the campaign are as much as \$50,000. Tom assured the Executive Committee that the Wind Power Committee would do its best to keep costs within the allotted budget.

Peter Roderick placed a motion, seconded by Ray Ronan, to authorize a budget of \$50,000, as proposed by Tom Lewis, to cover expenses incurred in the campaign to oppose the Highland Wind Power Project. The vote of the Executive Committee was unanimously in favor.

Laura Flight announced that she was leading a hike on January 23 on Bigelow Mountain, and invited others who would like to observe the proximity of Stewart Mountain to the trail to join her.

**Trail Maintainer Contract:** Dave Field announced that he had changed the last sentence on the Trail Maintainer contract, as directed at the last Executive Committee Meeting. Elsa Sanborn placed a motion, seconded by Dick Fecteau, to approve the revisions in the maintainer agreement. The vote of the Executive Committee to approve the changes was unanimous.

**Condor Flights:** Lester stated that he had sent a letter to the Air Force National Guard to express the objections of MATC to its proposed low level flights in the corridor from the New Hampshire border to Moosehead Lake. ATC has submitted a similar letter.

**Maine Trail Crew:** Lester explained that the working relationship between MCC and the Maine Trail Crew has changed, particularly in regards to scheduling of the work week. In 2006 MATC experimented with scheduling the crew work week from Monday to Friday, and lost volunteer involvement. For three years, MCC agreed to schedule its Maine Trail Crew workers on a Saturday to Wednesday schedule. For the 2010 season, MCC is firm in its refusal to schedule Garland based crews for a Saturday to Wednesday work week.

The Trail Crew Committee met in early December and discussed returning to the pre-2005 format of the Maine Trail Crew and filling crews with Student Conservation Association interns and ATC volunteers. The recommendations of the Trail Crew Committee are:

to keep the Saturday to Wednesday schedule  
to hire two Trail Crew Leaders for a 15 week season  
to select four SCA interns for a 13 week season  
to schedule a single six person crew for the first four weeks of the season  
to schedule two six person crews that include three volunteers each for the remaining eight weeks of the season  
to hire one coordinator for a 15 week season

Lester said he has placed advertising for the paid positions and asked for authorization from the Executive Committee to proceed. Bill Millis placed a motion, seconded by Peter Roderick, to authorize Lester to continue with plans for the Maine Trail Crew according to the recommendations of the Trail Crew Committee. The vote of support of the Executive Committee was unanimous. Lester added that these changes will reduce the cost of the Trail Crew season by \$20,000.

**ATC Data Base:** Bruce Grant explained that the ATC Volunteer Data Base is ready to go. ATC staff has entered the membership information it has, and is ready to enter the information that MATC will provide. Using this information ATC can easily generate mailing lists, can track committees, and has the capacity for customization. The immediate need is to assess what information is most important. Once the system is in place, individual members will be able to update their own information. MATC is looking for a Data Base Coordinator. Two parties have expressed interest in working with the Data Base. Lester hopes to move forward with this work within the next couple weeks.

**Club Coordinator Update:** Holly Sheehan announced that the Winter Social, coordinated by Dick Anderson, is set for February 20, at the First Baptist Church in Freeport. The meal will be served at 6 pm. The program to date includes a ten minute video on the International Appalachian Trail, a presentation on the thirty mile section of the IAT to the east of Baxter State Park and a showing of Bert Call's 1910 photos of the Baxter area. Bruce Grant mentioned that he has a copy of the National Geographic program on the AT. Lester also mentioned that Steve Pinkham, who is writing a book about the Maine mountains, has asked to present.

Holly also spoke of her own on-going work. She has been writing proposals for grants to seek funding for the Trail Crew and CARE, and has been writing reports to organizations that gave funds last year. She is working on recruitment for the Trail Crew for the upcoming season. She will soon begin preparations for the annual campaign.

Holly also shared information on e-mail list management services from a workshop she attended recently. She recommends that MATC investigate using an e-mail management service to efficiently communicate with club members and supporters.

Michelle Moody commented on the quality of Holly's work for MATC. Michelle served on the board that read applications, including Holly's, for RTP funding.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** Dave Field reminded the group that June 18 of this year will mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club. Dave has agreed to work with a committee to set plans for a celebration. Tony Barrett asked to serve on the committee. Bob Cummings recommended that Club Historian, Ray Ronan, also should serve on the committee, and Ray agreed. Bruce Grant suggested that the event might be tied to the beginning of a capital campaign. Tony noted that the event might also involve a National Trail Days project.

**Communications:** David Theoharides sent word that he seeks comments and suggestions for what the Communications Committee can do to continue work begun a couple years ago. Bill Millis said he'd like to see some new photos on the web site. Elsa Sanborn reminded club members that David has been very quick to post anything club members sent and that they should continue to submit items for inclusion. Ray Ronan has a CD for Dave with new photos. He also asked if the newsletter should always be available on the website. Dave Field reminded that some members don't have e-mail access, and that we shouldn't abandon the paper version of the MAINEtainer. Stan Moody added that paper copies can be easily distributed at meetings. Julian Wiggins noted that young people will be drawn to the newly created Facebook group. Laura Flight commented that we will need a commitment to keep that page updated.

Lester will plan to meet with the Communications Committee to review its charge and the suggested made at this meeting.

**Overseer Reports:** Dave Field said that the new ATC staffer in charge of corridor management is Carlen Emanuel. As Land Protection Manager for the ATC, she reports to Laura Belleville, ATC's Director of Conservation. Dave also said a husband and wife team was in Maine in October and was able to clear 14,000 feet of boundary near Route 17 in Rangeley. He said Maine is high on the list of needs. He also said that Carlen is considering corridor boundary line management option that might include providing some boundary maintenance funds to the MATC for it to administer.

The Natural Heritage Monitoring program in Maine, coordinated by Dave but administered by the New England Regional Office, has been somewhat in limbo since Alice Shori left that office a few years ago. Matt Stevens and Dave are trying to figure out how best to handle the program.

There were no overseer reports.

**Committee Reports:** According to the Local Management Plan, all committees are supposed to report at the January meeting. Lester apologized and said that in future he will advise committee chairs by e-mail a month in advance so they may prepare their reports.

**Other:** Dave Field encouraged all Executive Committee members to read and consider the proposal from Geoff Shadman to establish a business relationship between his guide service and MATC. Dave questioned what Geoff meant by the term "MATC sponsorship," but recommended that this is an idea that warrants further discussion.

Dick Fecteau placed a motion to adjourn, seconded by Elsa Sanborn.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Clain  
Recording Secretary