

# Maine Association of Sea Kayak Guides and Instructors

## Spring 2019 Meeting Minutes

Office of the Maine Island Trail Association  
Portland, Maine

13 April 2019  
1215 to 1500

### Attendance:

#### In Person

Zack Anchor, Alice Bean-Andrenyak, Tom Carr, Adam Cross (Maine Warden Service) Sam Frankel (*President*), Joe Guglielmetti (*Treasurer*), Carino Higgins, Alice Heyburn, Steve Ingram (Maine Marine Patrol), Maria Jenness (part time), Travis Journagan, Kathy Nugent, Elizabeth Ring, Craig Shipp (*Secretary*), Chris Strout, Rick Taylor

#### Remote

Kate DeGrasse

### Introduction of Meeting Attendees

### Overview of Agenda

#### Current Activities and Program (led by Sam Frankel)

- Continuation of pool sessions in the Portland area
- Good attendance at the Weather Course taught by John Huth in Portland on 23 March
- A MASKGI co-sponsored Wilderness Aid Afloat will be taught in Portland on 27-28 April
- Several working groups will report out today
  - Guide examiners and guide board
  - Professional development

#### Treasury and Membership Report (presented by Joe Guglielmetti)

- Present balance of the organization is \$9430.06
- There are 50 total paid members as of today
- Also, there are 16 paid business members as of today
- There was a discussion of the cycle of expenses throughout a typical year

#### Website Updates (presented by Sam Frankel on behalf of Liz Johnson, Webmaster)

- Added Professional Development tab on homepage
- Map of business member locations along the coast is now the top banner on the Outfitter and Guides tabs
- Continue listing all Maine Guide courses being taught this year
  - Interested in listing other courses that are of interest to guides.
- Continuing to work toward being able to pay dues online, rather than by snail mail

- If you have additional ideas for the website, contact the Executive Board at [maskgimail@gmail.com](mailto:maskgimail@gmail.com).

### Guide Examiner and Guide Board Feedback (discussion led by Sam Frankel with input from Steve Ingram, Maine Marine Patrol, and Adam Cross, Maine Warden Service)

- Brief review of meeting with Guide Board members on 1 April at IF&W office in Sidney
  - Added four new Sea Kayak Guide examiners for the IF&W testing over the last month
  - How to establish representation and a voice on the state guide board
- Request made by Alicia Heyburn and Sam Frankel to get the results from IF&W on the number of applicants versus successful new guides, issued licenses in 2018
- Points of discussion:
  - Introducing a guide apprentice program was discussed briefly - no proposal was brought forward
  - Proposal to modify the IF&W guide guidelines to replace three years kayaking experience with appropriate field experience instead was reviewed by Steve Ingram
  - The historic issues with on-water testing for license certification were shared by Steve Ingram. There are no plans to institute yet.
  - The issue of the newly required background checks was brought up and the adverse impact on the summer sea-kayak guide, particularly with timing and availability
- Discussed how this had been a good round-up summary of different ideas and conversations that had been had in the past:
  - We have good two-way channels with people serving on the Guide Board again
  - MASKGI as a membership doesn't agree yet on what we want to pursue, aside from communication and potentially representation on the Board
    - We can discuss internally, do some surveys, and return to the discussion.
    - In the meantime, we're very interested in hearing about different changes to guide testing and regulations (e.g. the possible field experience change above).

### Professional Development (led by Kathy Nugent)

- Current state - what do we have now:
  - Effective website
    - Build on use of the website to collect courses of interest to guides
  - Several training opportunities organized by MASKGI
- Issues briefly discussed and to be considered for future meetings
  - What further activities could be offered?
  - What events and activities could attract new members?
  - Discussion of the value of informal development
  - Also, a brief discussion about establishing mentorships - no specific recommendation was made
- Issues that are important outfitters/operators
  - Lack of good information of how to operate along the Maine coast
  - Good materials provided by many organizations that should be linked to the MASKGI website
    - Discussed aggregating or creating video content that is Maine specific
  - Cross training between different outfitter/operators is a good way to share knowledge
- Discussed setting up after-season debriefs in several locations in the state - will be further discussed by the Professional Development Committee

### Partnerships

- Discussion of how to build closer a relation between MITA and MASKGI
- Motion to renew business membership with MITA was carried at the \$100 level
  - EDIT: Subsequently heard from MITA that the business membership program wouldn't be the right fit. **We will follow up and see how best to partner.**
- Discussion of whether MASKGI should sponsor a booth at the Wicked Good Festival:
  - Festival is on 15 June at Cumberland Fair Grounds, Cumberland Center
  - **Motion to staff a booth at the Wicked Good Festival was carried**

## **Presentations**

*Youth Opportunities Program: Outdoor Opportunities for Low-income City Kids* - Carino Higgins

*Kayaking in Fiji* - Joe Guglielmetti

*Update of the Status of Maine Shellfish Aquaculture* - Alicia Heyburn

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Shipp  
MASKGI Secretary  
Version 2  
13 April 2019