

MASKGI Fall 2020 Meeting

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

2 November 2020
1830 to 2030

Attendance (all remote):

Suzanne Blackburn, Dan Calahane, Steve Custer, Phillippe Gassin (part-time), Joe Guglielmetti (*Treasurer*), Alicia Heyburn, Carino Higgins, Al Johnson, Liz Johnson (*Webmaster*), Travis Journagan, Brian LeFebvre (*USCG*), Kyle Martin, Thornton Ring, Craig Shipp (*Secretary*), Rick Taylor, Rose Weggler (*President*)

Total attendance: 16

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. *Self-introductions of Meeting Attendees* (All)
- B. *Overview of Agenda* (Rose Weggler)

II. REPORTS

- A. *Spring 2020 Meeting Minutes* (Rose Weggler)
 - 1. Request for comments on minutes – none received
 - 2. Minutes accepted by proclamation
- B. *Treasurer's Report* (Joe Guglielmetti)
 - 1. Treasury
 - a. Current bank balance - \$7307.67
 - b. Expenses are less this year and mostly consist of:
 - i. Monthly Zoom subscription mostly for executive and general meetings
 - ii. Occasional fees to maintain website
 - iii. Pool sessions expenses
 - 2. Membership
 - a. A total of 66 members, both Personal and Business
 - b. A total of 23 Business members, counting each business as one member (occasionally multiple owners of same business register as individual business members)
 - 3. Treasurer's Report accepted by proclamation after some discussion

C. *Past-Year Activities (Rose Weggler):*

1. Several special meetings
 - a. Topic concerned COVID impact on the upcoming guiding season
 - b. Virtual meetings were held before and early in the guiding season
 - c. A recurrent topic during these meetings was the types of compensation available for the guiding community from government agencies
2. MITA-sponsored Lunch and Learn lead by MASKGI members
 - a. In late May, a panel of operators participated in a question and answer session about kayaking best practices
 - b. Kevin Beckwith, Karen Francoeur, and Nate Hanson were the present or past MASKGI members on the panel
3. New England Ocean Clusters hosted a World Oceans and Great Outdoors meeting
 - a. Attended in late June by Rose Weggler on behalf of MASKGI
 - b. Her input was to promote the uniqueness of paddle sports in Maine
 - c. The event was a virtual meeting that was well attended
4. Maine Outdoor Adventure Club
 - a. Zack Anchors and Rose Weggler attended on behalf of MASKGI
 - b. Again, their input was to promote paddle sports, and stress safety and kayaking resources in Maine
5. Pool sessions
 - a. Pool sessions were again held at Riverton YMCA in Portland
 - b. Sessions were held in conjunction with Portland Paddle
 - c. At total of four pool sessions this season before the pandemic started
 - d. Some discussion about types of boats and their cleanliness that are brought to the pool session – the key issue is to be considerate of the pool setting

D. *A Review of 2020 Membership Perks (Rose Weggler)*

1. Free Personal and Business MASKGI memberships for 2020
2. Offseason pool sessions were free for MASKGI members
3. MASKGI became a MITA Business member, so the MITA app was free for MASKGI members
4. Maine Outdoor Brands offered free business memberships for MASKGI members
5. Several virtual Zoom meetings before and early in the season to assess impact of the pandemic on the guiding season (mentioned earlier)
6. If the WFAA course was able to run, then members would have received a \$25 discount

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. *Election of Officers*

1. Executive Board
 - a. Clarification for the membership that the Executive Board consists of the five offices listed below

- b. Function of the MASKGI Executive Board
 - i. The board addresses any MASKGI business that is pending between the intervals of the Fall and Spring general membership meetings
 - ii. The board usually meets about once a month (sometimes less during the guiding season)
 - 2. Slate of officers proposed after canvassing by the MASKGI Executive Board:
 - a. Rose Weggler - President (returning)
 - b. Nancy Zane - Vice President (returning)
 - c. Kyle Martin - Treasurer (new)
 - d. Craig Shipp - Secretary (returning)
 - e. Dan Cahalane - Webmaster (new)
 - 3. Nominees accepted by unanimous consensus as proposed after a brief discussion
 - 4. Joe Guglielmetti (outgoing Treasurer) and Liz Johnson (outgoing Webmaster) were both graciously thanked by the membership for their years of service to MASKGI
- B. *MASKGI Website* (Liz Johnson)
 - 1. Due to Liz's continued efforts, the website has stayed up to date with resources and announcements
 - 2. Website modifications
 - a. A question was raised, asking if there is anything missing from the website
 - b. No comments were made about any needed changes
 - 3. Liz and the new webmaster, Dan Cahalane, will handle the transition of webmaster duties
- C. *SOLO and WMA Courses Update* (Rose Weggler, also representing Nancy Zane)
 - 1. Structure and scheduling for all courses have been significantly altered by the pandemic
 - 2. Both organizations have instituted pandemic protocols going forward
 - 3. Additional changes can be anticipated around scheduling for both organizations, so consult appropriate websites for latest updates
- D. *Recap of This Past Guiding Season* (All)
 - 1. Compilation of experiences operating this past guiding season
 - a. Cleaning gear
 - i. The cleaning of equipment after each trip with biodegradable soap and water was arduous
 - ii. However, the equipment stayed much cleaner than previous seasons!
 - b. For the most part, trips were generally smaller
 - c. Demographics of clientele
 - i. Many more local Maine folks participated in outings
 - ii. Seems reasonable to assume that the Maine State quarantine requirements for individuals entering from many of the surrounding states for most of the season drove this trend
 - d. Overall traffic was much greater later in the season (i.e., August)

- e. Preference of registering ahead online was used successfully over walkup traffic by several operators this past season
- f. Sales of equipment, particularly boats, was very brisk this season
- 2. Finally, last but certainly not least was the acknowledgment of Joe Guglielmetti's speed paddle along the entire Maine Island Trail – Kittery to Lubec this summer
 - a. The paddle was undertaken in the first half of August during very hot weather
 - b. Paddle duration
 - i. The paddle was accomplished in approximately 4-1/4 days!
 - ii. There was some discussion and then consensus recognition that this might be the fastest that entire Maine Island Trails has been paddled in one outing

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. *Pool Sessions for This Winter Season (All)*
 - 1. Hoping to run these sessions this winter, if possible – wait and see
 - 2. Need to check on insurance availability – will Portland Paddle sponsor and provide the insurance again?
 - 3. **Kyle Martin** and **Thornton Ring** volunteered to help organize the pool sessions
 - 4. Pool sessions are open format (organic!)
 - a. Folks mostly practice their own skills
 - b. Others will team up and do rescues, rolls, etc.
 - c. Pickup instruction does occur on the fly
 - 5. Locations of pool sessions for this winter
 - a. Discussion of having pool sessions in other venues besides Portland
 - b. Some other venues were suggested
 - i. Boothbay Harbor
 - ii. Camden
- B. *Other Related Activities*
 - 1. Teens to Trails (Alicia Heyburn)
 - a. The organization's mission is to connect high school students to life-changing outdoor experiences (<https://www.teenstotrails.org/t3info>)
 - b. Furthermore, the organization provides:
 - i. Adult and student leaders with tools, resources, and guidance to organize, recruit and lead trips as an outing club
 - ii. Guidance to other affiliate group that wants to build community through outdoor activities
 - c. There are over three dozen existing outing club throughout the state
 - d. Sea kayaking is a popular activity with all outing clubs
 - e. How MASKGI members can help:
 - i. Need Maine Registered Sea-kayak Guides to lead trips
 - ii. If you are willing to donate time (and possibly equipment), contact Alicia Heyburn (<mailto:alicia@teenstotrails.org>)

2. Education trip leader certification (Alicia Heyburn)
 - a. Presently, a task force comprised of post-secondary and K-12 representatives are developing a state certification for educators to lead wilderness trips
 - b. This effort is being sanctioned by IF&W and the Maine Warden Service
 - c. The purpose of this effort is:
 - i. Envisioned as a mechanism for educational organizations to lead wilderness trips, while
 - ii. Remaining compliant with the law and as an alternative to becoming a Registered Maine Guide
 - d. This certification would only be valid:
 - i. For teachers and staff of an educational institution to lead students
 - ii. These outings are not commercial trips
 - e. Certification will follow a set curriculum requiring 8 hours of contact time, followed by an examination
 - f. This certification program should be in effect by Fall 2021
- C. *USCG Report* (Brian LeFebvre)
1. USCG presence in New England (NE)
 - a. There are greater than 600 Coast Guard personnel in northern NE
 - b. Many of those personnel are in the six USCG stations along the Maine Coast
 2. What MASKGI member can do
 - a. Promote wearing lifejackets – more critical in cold weather to extend survivability
 - b. Communicate with USCG about any unusual activities
 - c. Maintain your personal paddling equipment
 - d. Promote use of orange “If Found” stickers for all paddle craft
 3. This year’s compilation of on-water accident statistics:
 - a. 360 search and rescue missions this year
 - b. 24 kayaking-related search and rescues
 - c. 15 fatalities total
 - d. 20% of fatalities were kayakers (3 incidents)
 - e. Number of kayaking incidents similar to previous years
 4. VHF radios
 - a. Suggest use of VHF radio for emergencies, if you can reach someone
 - b. VHF radio call for urgent situations is preferred over use of mobile phone, since it cuts out the middleman (County 911 Centers will pass off to USCG anyways)
 - c. Keying of VHF radio provides lines of bearing, if intervention is needed by USCG
 - d. Strongly suggest use of VHF radio for hailing by kayakers in busy traffic areas to announce intentions (e.g., crossing channels, near piers and docks, etc.)
 5. There was a discussion of how best to get orange “If Found” stickers wider distribution in state by using retailers and operators

D. *Actions Taken*

1. Activities that MASKGI might consider organizing:
 - a. A VHF etiquette session with USCG providing expertise
 - b. Weather session
 - i. Organizing another weather session, like MASKGI did last year was suggested
 - ii. Joe Guglielmetti will contact John Huth to determine his interest in giving another weather lecture, as he has done in the past
2. Availability for overnight parking at boat launches (Alicia Heyburn)
 - a. Has been identified as a substantial issue for kayakers
 - b. This issue is presently being addressed by the MITA Board of Directors
3. Use of treasury funds – Executive Board is always looking for suggestions
 - a. Present uses this year (mentioned previously)
 - i. Pool sessions expenses
 - ii. Pay for website expenses
 - iii. Zoom subscription
 - b. New uses suggested:
 - i. Revise ramp signs – Joe Guglielmetti will take a photo and distribute
 - ii. Purchase and use Quickbooks
 - Kyle Martin (new Treasurer) suggested using this software for MASKGI accounting
 - **Motion proposed and carried** for Kyle to purchase the software and convert MASKGI accounting to Quickbooks
 - c. Send someone to Bay of Fundy Symposium in Nova Scotia
 - d. Offset membership dues
 - i. **Motion proposed and carried** to make Personal and Business member dues optional for 2021
 - ii. Executive Board will work out the details of implementing this action
4. Next meeting
 - a. Spring meeting will be in April 2021
 - b. Executive Board will sort out the details of timing and venue
 - c. Best timing was agreed to be in the evening on a weekday

V. ADJOURNMENT

Respectively Submitted,

Craig Shipp, Secretary
 15 November 2020
 Version 2b