



Merrimack Valley Paddlers Annual Meeting - 2023 Minutes

January 20, 2023 7:00 to 9:00 PM
Airport Diner, Manchester, NH & Zoom

References: Meeting Presentation
Financial Presentation

Attendees:

On-Site . (Airport Diner, Manchester, NH)

Justin Larsh, Alan MacRae, Butch Mixon, John Charlwood, Skip Morris, Dan Waslo, Patrick Robbins

On-Line (Zoom): John Jenkins, Sam Jacobson, Sondra Crayton, Lynne Wholley, Neil Gibeault, Dan Philbrick, Art Ginsberg, Brooke Sofferman, Tim Wilson, Marlene Kim, Cheryl Guyre, Paula Michaud, Ginny Wright, Nancy Gero, Heidi Cheney, Richard Chaney, Scott Mabel

Meeting Presentations:

Intro by Dan Waslo: Welcomed participants and commenced displaying Powerpoint charts and screen shared for zoom attendees. DW proceeded to review charter and bylaws. Stated purpose of MVP is gathering people together for paddling trips, exchanging info on rivers, paddling and safety. Slalom and racing no longer en vogue. Legislative and environmental issues are important. Liaison with AW re: access and conservation. Board of Directors (BoD) has officers and 3 elected board members. Officers have 1 year term. Board members on 3,2,1 year schedule. Annual budget established by BoD which has not been done for a few years. Quorum is 10% of members. BoD must meet at least once per year. Recommend accelerating meeting frequency to at least once per two months. Quorum officially met with this meeting. Question from Nancy on dues vs bylaws as well as non profit status. Skip Church confirmed this week it has been now restored. President appoints committees after election. DW

Recommended committees are: Communications, Web page, Membership, Conservation, and equipment. Review of trips (see PPT presentation). John Jenkins comment: Brought up Chica paddle (and chico). Pemi release is when and 3rd week of Aug. Same as pig roast according to Nancy.

Takeaways from Nov meeting: DW summarized: What does MVP bring to the table? Club membership has dwindled. Was 100 and has been as low as 30. On Jan 1, he chased down fees as well as recruited with help from Paula. Overnight trips are a big draw. Need to work on local day trips. Paddling cliques have been becoming the norm compared to the past when MVP was more of a focal point. Skip looking at updating website as existing is clunky. New



platform is instrumental and it is 70% complete. John Charlwood offered to check out the fleet. (has since done so).

Financial report: Skip presented the financials. As well, he showed new 70% completed website. <http://merrimackvalleypaddlers.com/g17/>

He said \$4000 on hand. West Forks trip and Jan 1 membership as well as tip jar receipts are reasons. MVP has budget based on prior year expenses with adjustments as needed by BoD directive. Current budget default is \$3465. Displayed and described 8 year trends in financials. BoD will need to talk about boat rentals. JC appointed as equipment custodian mentioned would need about \$100 to \$200 to bring gear up to proper working order. (equipment is in Nashua.). Equipment line item will be discussed in new business. 3 people want to run rolling sessions. Dan P looking at Manchester Y which responded warmly. Marty is coordinating sessions at Colby Sawyer in New London. Skip looking at Concord's City pool which is more costly. Keep watching FB page. Took Put in (Cliff Eisner) project is almost done. He described building the kiosk Boy Scouts built as Eagle Scout project (from Bradford). Cliff Eisner Sr. was at official launch. Skip added that with \$100 of supplies and plans on the internet, scouts built picnic table. This still leaves \$500 in budget for project. Started talking nature trails. (Skip put up map of area in room and posted on line in chat). Skip described it as 13 acre property with some room to expand parking lot. Boy Scouts were going to build trails but pandemic hit. Map is now on the Cliff Eisner (Contoocook Henniker) put in) kiosk. John Jenkins mentioned at a previous MVP meeting at a his house that it is ok for non profits to have money so nothing stopping MPV from doing bigger things. Skip brought up that it had been considered from time to time to become 501C3 for tax deductible donations making it easier to raise money from outside sponsors. Currently, MVP is just non-profit status. (map was put in meeting chat). Cheryl had question on bylaws came up. Dues in by laws is a default if they are not overridden. Recommend to change language to delineate default. DW said good idea but need to move to nominations.

Nominations and Voting:

DW has a MS Word File which is being shared that has the writeups. (Most ,if not all also posted on MVP Facebook group site.)

President: DW mentioned that he is nominated a candidate for President and is currently interim). DW asked if anyone else is willing to run to which there was no response. Marlene quickly seconded and no objections and thus passed without objection

VP: Candidate Dan Philbrick (described reasons). Skip pointed out to make the VP the activity activity coordinator. Skip pointed out the Treasurer fills the role by default. He suggests this become expressly stated in bylaws. DW mentioned that BoD will report on these roles. Move to appoint Dan P as VP. Passed and without objection.



Treasurer: Sondra Crayton: She mentioned in addition to qualifications to make the activity role to VP. Mentioned she has helped people go from class 2 to class 3 which is important. Skip did great job but will not put hat in ring. DW move that SC be Treasurer of MVP. Seconded and no objections.

Secretary: Patrick Robbins made a statement. Skip had been a candidate but withdrew his candidacy after PR's statement mentioned decided to withdraw. DW moved that PR be appointed as Secretary. It was seconded and no objections.

Board of Directors:

Erin Buzuvis: Not present in person or zoom . DW read statement

Jeff Swett : Not present in person or zoom. DW read statement

Marty Parichand : Not present in person or zoom. DW read statement

Rand Currier: (not member and folks mentioned not eligible). DW thought good to read statement anyway which he proceeded to do. There was questions on the topic of his membership. Skip confirmed that in 2011 he was an official member but not currently and he added it would be good to encourage him to join and run in the future.

Ginny Wright: She read her statement on zoom.

Paul Egbert: Not present in person or zoom . DW read statement

Skip Morris: Present and read Diner

As there were more candidates than positions, a vote was needed. Marlene mentioned that a non public vote is preferred. Others agreed. Vote occurred with on line with voters texting 3 candidates by text to Dan's phone. Members voted on pieces of paper. DW tabulated votes.

DW read the count. Highest vote getters are **Erin Buzuvis** and **Marty Parichand followed by Ginny Wright** . Marlene mentioned that Jeff and Skip should serve on committees.

New Business:

DW quickly read items that were to be discussed in new business:

Amendment 1 : Skip mentioned to add a class of honorary member.

Amendment 2 : Event coordinator should fall under VP.

Cheryl mentioned that be mindful of what should be by laws or not.

At 9:13 PM, DW terminated meeting as it was after the meeting time allotment and beyond time for room and folks on line were dropping off.