

Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association
Board and Member Meeting - June 20, 2015
At the Range

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Present: Board members: Nancy Perry, John Morey, Cindy Foster, Gail Miller, Don Fowler, Neal Trask, Sandy Jamison, John McCatherin, Bill Croce, Joe Loughran, Mark Curtis, John Pease, Glenn Bickford and Rick Young. 21 members-at-large were also in attendance.

Secretary's Report/Minutes (Cindy Foster)

- The minutes from the last two meetings (the Annual Meeting and a Resolution) were summarized and accepted.
- Secretary Cindy reported that Constant Contact continues to be our program for creating and sending newsletters and notices. We have had a very good response from our newsletters; our June newsletter was sent to 405 members with 485 email addresses, and nearly 300 people opened the newsletter. 40 people clicked through to the CVOA web site.
- Cindy reported on our updated membership numbers: We currently have 418 memberships, of which 227 include Range members. We have 778 members, of whom 339 are Range members. 95 of the memberships are new for the 2014-15 membership year, 43 of which include Range members.
- CVOA owns a Lenovo Thinkpad laptop which is not being used. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to sell the laptop. Linda Trueworthy will buy it for \$200.

Treasurer's Report (Gail Miller)

- Gail thanked Peter Weston for setting up an excellent system for bookkeeping and records. There were some challenges and delays in changing the checking account at Skowhegan Savings Account to allow the Treasurer and Secretary to sign checks. The secretary has been selected as a second signer on the checking account should the treasurer not be available.
- The CVOA credit card has been cancelled. The CVOA debit card is in the names of the Treasurer and Secretary.
- Gail reported that deposits are made directly to the bank by trip leaders, the Range, and the Secretary. We are now using On-line banking for balances and verifying payments and deposits. BillPay has been set up. Gail will look into investing some of the CVOA funds.
- We are looking to refine our budgeting process for 2016.
- A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Range Report (John McCatherin/Neal Trask)

- John and Neal reported on the progress of the new \$30,000 Range building that is being constructed this year using approximately \$6,800 in CVOA funds and about \$18,500 from a Maine Range Access Grant, administered by the Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Game and funded from taxes assessed nationwide on the sale of ammunition. Part of the funding is also an estimated \$5,400 in kind from CVOA member contributions, donated equipment and labor. Currently, the building is planned at 12'x14'; the size will be determined after the cost of the drilled well is determined. It will contain a seasonal flush toilet and sink, along with storage space. The expenses of a porta-potty and a remote storage unit will be eliminated. The Range will be plowed in the winter for access. Eight volunteers spent a recent Sunday morning cutting trees and hauling brush from the area of the water line and the septic system.

- A steering committee of Neal Trask, Peter Weston, John McCatherin and Harvey Packard is overseeing the project. Peter supplied the drawings and specs, and will supply the lumber for the building from trees cut on his wood lot. Dan Gagne will donate the plumbing. Bill Ward is donating a toilet. There will be other donation opportunities available.
- There are 25 bids for various aspects of the project. CVOA pays invoices and gets reimbursed from the state as we go along.
- A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Range report.

NEW BUSINESS:

CVOA Calendar Year (Cindy Foster)

- Cindy reported that changing the membership year from October 1 – September 30 to the calendar year will simplify the membership process, particularly for the Range. Cindy Foster moved to amend Article III, Section 3.5, by striking out ‘October’ and inserting ‘January’. The revised sentence will be: “Dues are payable on the 1st of January of each year.” The motion was seconded by Greg Foster, and was accepted unanimously by a show of hands. Our membership year will now be based on the calendar year.
- Cindy noted that all current memberships will be extended through December 31st, 2015. Also, we will still take renewals and new memberships at Homecoming; any memberships paid from October 1st through the end 2015 will be valid until December 30, 2016.

Adventure Calendar (Nancy Perry)

- Nancy reported that the Vice President will be the designated Adventure Coordinator during the duration of his/her term, and John Morey has agreed to fill the role. He will work with a committee to develop a calendar of activities for 2016 and recruit leaders to coordinate those trips. The committee will also help volunteers who want to organize events or outings.
- Maine Huts & Trails has offered to host CVOA for an overnight event. It was agreed there is enough interest to pursue the option.
- Nancy talked about the diminishing interest by members for running trips and wonders if asking participants to share in the cost of the trip leader’s lodging might entice more people to become trip leaders. A motion was made, seconded, and accepted: For overnight trips in 2016, trip participants will each pay \$5 toward the lodging cost of the trip leader. It will be implemented in a way that works with the trip’s payment schedule.
- Nancy asked members if there is there enough interest to look at options for a week-long summer trip, using a tour operator like we do for the ski trips. It was agreed there is interest. The new Adventures committee will explore options.
- Nancy raised the question about what to do with the funds from a possible third “free” ski trip during CVOA’s 2016 trip to Whistler. Cindy reported that it is typical in the industry to award a free ski trip to the group for every 20-25 people who go on the ski trip. In the past, the first free trip was granted to the trip leader and the value of the second free trip was given to CVOA. For the Whistler trip in 2016, it is likely that a third free trip will be earned. Five options of what to do with the third free trip were discussed: return the entire value to CVOA, give a free trip to the trip leader’s traveling companion, raffle off the free trip, divide the money among all participants on the ski trip or give half the value to the trip leader and half the value to CVOA. A motion was made and seconded to split the third free trip refund 50/50 between the trip leader and CVOA. The motion passed 16 for and 10 against.
- Peter Weston volunteered to be the trip leader for a trip to Bar Harbor in October.

Town Road Cleanup (John McCatherin)

- John McCatherin gave some history of the Carrabasset Valley Cleanup Day, which was initiated when the Sugarloaf Marathon was first run in the Valley about 30 years ago. The Cleanup Day is run by the town. This year, John took leadership of the event, and asked at the meeting if CVOA should take over running the event. Don Fowler told the group that he didn't think CVOA should run the event; it would place the burden on CVOA, and likely lose the support of other organizations and townspeople. John said that the town would run the cleanup if CVOA did not. A motion was made and seconded that CVOA not take charge of the CV Cleanup Day but continue to support this community event. The motion was passed unanimously.

Charitable Contributions (Peggy Bickford)

- Peggy Bickford asked members to financially support the Stratton Summer Recreation Program. The 8-week program is funded by the town of Stratton. A portion of their program is running overnight trips with outdoor themes and activities for 6th-9th grade children. There are children who are not able to afford the added cost of these trips. A motion was made by Peggy Bickford: "To donate up to \$1000 to the Stratton Recreation Program to fund scholarships that allow children who might not otherwise be able to participate go on trips; the Program staff will report back to Peggy with how the funds were used." The motion was seconded. Discussion included John McCatherin's comments that the Range hosts a visit by this same group of children to the Range every summer. Also discussed was the desire for the money to be spent on helping more children participate and the need for accountability by the organizations CVOA supports. The motion was passed unanimously.

Other Business

- Neal Trask reported on the state of the fish pond at the Outdoor Center. A year and a half ago, CVOA stocked the pond with fish, and arranged for signage at the pond. There are still fish in the pond, and there is evidence that they are breeding, and growing. The sign needs updating and improvement, and it was suggested that pea gravel be brought in to the area from which a canoe could be launched if access was easier. Neal talked with Dave Cota, town manager of Carrabasset Valley; Dave will follow up with getting the sign from Sugarloaf, and having the town install the pea gravel.
- John McCatherin reported that the local Cub Scout Den, to whom CVOA donated \$400 in startup funds last year, is very active. Also, there are three Cub Scouts who will be reviving Boy Scout Troop #525 next year.
- The 8 picnic tables that CVOA placed on the Narrow Gauge trail several years ago are each in need of repair or replacement. Paul Trueworthy and Glenn Bickford will assess the needs and report at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on August 22nd at the Range.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. and we moved on to a BBQ with burgers provided by CVOA, and potluck salads and desserts provided by members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Foster, Secretary