

**MINUTES OF THE
MONTPELIER SECTION ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2017**

The Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club held its 62nd annual meeting on April 8, 2016, at Christ Church in Montpelier.

Following a social time and potluck dinner, Section president Steven Bailey called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in traditional fashion by banging a wooden spoon on the old camp coffee pot. Steve welcomed all, including special guests Mike DeBonis, GMC Executive Director, and John Page, GMC President and Montpelier Section Member.

Mike said the club has a full complement of caretakers and volunteer members of the Long Trail patrol. There is also a full time construction crew. Work on Bryant Cabin was completed in the beginning of the winter and it opened on January 1st. It has had almost 70% occupancy. This year, the crew will work on Bolton Lodge and the Smuggler's Notch relocation. Mike told us that over 600 people have "hiked" over 9,000 miles of the Long Trail at the Berlin Mall!

John said the main club has almost 10,000 members, of which 40% are section members and 60% are general members. The GMC is one of the largest non-profit membership organizations in the state. Of the 14 sections, the Montpelier section is one of the biggest and healthiest. He described the role of the main club and its interaction with the sections, as well as the growth of the club over the past 40 years. Last year the main club made changes in committees and how the board and staff work together. There is now a working group studying the relationship between the main club and the sections. Last year the main club had a budget surplus and paid off its debt. The Annual Meeting will be June 9 to 11 in Starksboro and all members are welcome to attend.

Old Business

1. The minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved.
2. Steve Bailey, in his president's report, highlighted events of the past year, including a presentation by Alan Paschell and Morgan Irons on their trips to the 100 Mile Wilderness, the story telling program organized by Mike Wetherell in January ("Let me tell you about the time. . ."), Reidun and Andrew Nuquist's Taylor Series' presentation last year on hiking the British Isles, Steve and Heather Bailey's Taylor Series' slide show this year on the Worcester Range and Reidun Nuquist's multiple presentations of the "Women in the Green Mountains." He also noted that Sharon Plumb had rejuvenated the YAC group, thanked everyone who participated in the three work hikes last year, acknowledged the work of all of the officers and committee chairpersons, encouraged members to volunteer to lead trips and noted that mid-week events are sponsored by the Trekkers, which has a mailing list maintained by Nancy Jordan.

3. Treasurer Morgan Irons reported at the annual meeting last year, the section approved a contribution of up to \$4,000 to the main club. She sent the main club \$4000 without first applying the 150% rule (that we keep at least 150% of our operating expenses on hand). We do not have the surplus on hand as required by the 150% rule. Ken Hertz moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed.

4. Trails and Shelters Coordinator Andrew Nuquist said there remains a road walk of 8/10 of a mile on River Road. South of Gleason Brook Bridge there is a ditch which needs to be shoveled out every year. He is looking for a reroute. He is hoping to build the board walk north of Barnes Camp in Smuggler's Notch, referred to by Mike DeBonis.

5. Membership Coordinator Christie Carter reported that the membership is relatively steady, although down a bit with 352 memberships and 519 voting members.

6. Vice president Sharon Plumb reported that 18 people lead trips and thanked those volunteers. Last year, we had a total of 59 trips and 123 participants from ages 6 months to over 80. In addition to 3 work hikes, there were hikes, road walks, kayak trips and trail magic provided on the Long Trail. Prizes were awarded to Alan Paschell, who went on all three work trips, Andrew Nuquist and Linda Trono, who each went on 17 trips, Reidun Nuquist, who led 11 trips, and Phyllis Rubenstein, who won the door prize. April 10 is the deadline for signing up to lead summer trips.

New Business

1. Jill Aspinall, for the Nomination Committee (consisting of Charlene Bohl and George Longenecker), presented a slate of officers: Present, Steve Bailey; Vice president, Sharon Plumb; Membership Coordinator, Linda Trono; Treasurer, Morgan Irons; secretary, Phyllis Rubenstein; and Trails and Shelter Coordinator, Andrew Nuquist. There were no nominations from the floor. Michael Chernick moved to approve the slate by a single ballot. The motion was passed.

2. On a motion by Jill Aspinall, which was seconded by Heather Bailey, the meeting was adjourned.

Following adjournment, Sharon Plumb presented a program of beautiful slides and wonderful stories of her hike with her husband on the Tour du Mont Blanc and Cinque Terre.

Respectfully submitted on April 20, 2017,
Phyllis Rubenstein, Secretary