

Carrabassett Valley Outdoor Association
Board and Member Meeting – September 11, 2016
At the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center in Carrabassett Valley

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m, following a presentation by Bruce and Annemarie Albiston of the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center and a pot-luck lunch.

Present: Board members: John Morey, Joe Loughran, Cindy Foster, Neal Trask, Diane Stone, Glenn Bickford, Mary Berger, Betsy Chapman, John Pease, Jim Heichel, Gail Miller, Sandy Jamison, and Mark Curtis; 2 members-at-large.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Cindy Foster)

- The minutes from the June 26th meeting were summarized, with a reminder about the policy for contributing to events such as pot luck meals, or other events: members should bring either food/goods OR pay \$5 into the treasury. Also, in 2015 we voted that for the year 2016, every participant in an overnight trip will contribute \$5 per person to help cover the trip leader's lodging. The minutes were accepted by a unanimous vote.
- Our membership numbers grew very slightly; we have approximately 465 memberships representing 850 members. We have approximately 450 memberships, which includes about 800 members.
- Memberships come up for renewal beginning October 1st. Any renewals or new memberships accepted from October 1st through December 31st will be valid through December 31st, 2017.
- CVOA received a note of thanks from Maggie Swain for the North Woods campership we granted her.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Gail Miller)

- Our treasury is in good shape, and we are \$2000 over last year at this time.
- The Range is doing very well with income up \$1300.
- Two expenses coming up are insurance at \$3000 and plowing at a rate to be determined.
- We have \$49,000 in a money market account, earning about \$50 per month in interest, and \$8,000 in our checking account. That is an appropriate balance to manage cash flow.
- Discussion ensued about how much money we should have "in the bank". At this time, it appears that we do not have a long term plan for funding and use of funds. Greg Foster suggested a discussion of a long term plan; a committee will be formed at some time in the future for discussion.
- The treasurer's report was accepted.

RANGE REPORT (Neal Trask)

- The range is in good shape. One-day memberships have doubled since last year, which is very good because our funding for large projects requires both public access and growth. The downside is the increased expenses and time to repair targets, among other things.
- CVOA Range fees are lower than most other shooting facilities in Maine. Also, some of the activities such as sighting a rifle incur repair costs without a fee having been paid. Trap shooting expenses are offset by income from the sale of clays. The fee structure was discussed, with no resulting recommendation for a new fee structure. It was suggested that the Range Committee meet to discuss the options. A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Range Committee to set the range rates for the 2017 membership year. The motion was approved unanimously.
- John Pease asked if we have hunter safety courses. Neal replied that we have had courses in the past, but there are courses offered around the state that are available.

ADVENTURE COMMITTEE (Betsy Chapman)

- The Adventure Committee met this morning from 10:30 to noon, with 8 people present.
- They are looking for someone to host the annual Holiday Hike and Cookie Swap.
- We need a leader for the Hike and Soup, or Shoe and Stew, for January or February.
- For Homecoming, Joe Loughran will take charge of setting up our tables in the Base Lodge, and scheduling volunteers to staff the table. He needs help and guidance as he has never done this before.
- In the past, there has been a Homecoming Hike, but there is not one scheduled this year.
- In the past, the Range has held a BBQ on Homecoming Sunday, but attendance has dwindled over the years. There will not be a Range BBQ this year. However, there is a Turkey Shoot on Sunday morning. For those who don't know, there are no turkeys shot. Rather, the winners of competitions are awarded gift cards with which they can buy a turkey at Hannaford.
- John Morey brought up the idea of Show N Go events that might be spur of the moment. There has been discussion in the past about developing email lists of people interested in specific activities such as hiking and fishing. Such a program has not been developed. And there is some question about the viability and use of the program. Rather than add a place on the membership form for members to indicate interest, Cindy will put an article in the next newsletter soliciting interest. The response can be taken into consideration for further pursuit of the program.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Cindy reported that there are 67 signed up for the Telluride trip in 2017, with room available.
- Peggy Bickford is taking charge of selling the CVOA Hiking Guides by handling requests for inventory to sell by local establishments. She recently ordered 100 copies of the Guide, of which 82 have been sold. We sell the guide to shops for \$10 each, and the shops generally sell them for \$15. Peggy asked if she should order another 100 copies. She feels that the local sales locations are adequately stocked through the end of the year. We will table discussion until 2017 about purchasing more guides.
- 2017 membership fees will remain at \$10 for an individual and \$15 for a family.
- At the last meeting, we tabled discussion about increasing the \$5 per person fee on overnight trips to subsidize the trip leader's accommodations. Today, we had discussion about keeping the same policy, or increasing the fee to \$5 per person per night. In some cases, either way the fee will exceed the trip leader's expense. Sometimes, \$5 per person will not begin to cover the lodging. In the past, some trip leaders have used any excess monies to provide food, boat rentals, or other benefits to the participants, but that is not required. It is the trip leader's choice to take or decline the fee; also, a trip leader might collect more than the lodging expenses, which is acceptable. **A motion was made and seconded to increase the trip fee for overnight trips to \$5 per person per night for the year 2017.** The motion was passed with one 'nay' vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- We appreciate the generosity of the Adaptive Outdoor Education Center in offering us their yurt to use for our meetings. Gail suggested we make a donation to their cause. Peggy will meet with the Albistons and encourage them to apply for CVOA charitable giving funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

The next meeting will be held at a date and location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Foster, Secretary