

KMTC Annual Business Meeting Minutes

15 September 2018

-The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Don Olds at 10:00AM in the Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park Visitors' Center Education Room. Attendees included:

Officers -

Scott Mackay, President
Don Olds, Vice-President
Tom Okerberg, Treasurer

Directors –

Bruce Rugg, Trail Director
Rena Bailey, Community Volunteers Director
Fred Feltmann, Communications/Newsletter Director
Janie Brier, Trail Ambassador Director
Danny Leigh, Invasive Plants Director

Additional Board Members -

Jay Haney, Program Planning & Archives

Additional KMTC Voting Members –

Ken Hale, Marty Verdi, Geoff Grosguth, Dave Skilling

-The first order of business was the election of Officers/Directors for the coming year. The slate of nominees as listed below was unanimously approved.

President – Don Olds
Vice President – Bill Gurry
Secretary – Bob Brier
Treasurer – Tom Okerberg
Trail Director – Bruce Rugg
Communications/Newsletter Director - Fred Feltmann
Community Volunteers Director – Rena Bailey
Trail Ambassador Director – Janie Brier
Invasive Plants Director – Danny Leigh

Program Planning & Archives – Jay Haney
Fundraising – Scott Mackay
Technology – Jerry Givan

Election notes:

- Since the park is now taking the lead on providing all historical lectures and interpretation, the Club Historian position that existed for the last several years has been eliminated.

- While Bill Gurry agreed to serve as Vice-President going forward, he has not agreed at this time to taking over the President's position in two years. He will continue to assist Trail Director, Bruce Rugg, with trail work day planning.

-Next up, was the presentation of annual reports. President Scott Mackay, while unable to 'talk to' his President's report and the Fundraising report, provided copies of both which accompany these minutes. The following individuals then presented or made available their reports per the published meeting agenda.

- Treasurer, Tom Okerberg's financial report (attached) indicated that the Club remains comfortably 'in the black' and that an approximately \$2100 liability insurance premium payment will be made soon.

- Trail Director, Bruce Rugg reported on the transitional efforts made on the lower Mountain Trail over the course of the last several months. It's in the best shape it's been in for several years. Bruce also advised that the next Crew Leaders' training class will take place the first weekend in November. And, he gave special recognition to Bill Gurry for outstanding Trail Work Day planning.

- Trail Ambassador Director, Janie Brier reported (attached) that we currently have 59 TA's having gained 5 and lost 7 this year. She has 27 candidates 'in the pipeline' 11 of whom have completed one or more of the training requirements. She conducted 3 TA orientations this year.

- Community Volunteers Director, Rena Bailey (report attached) advised that we are averaging about 70 volunteers on Trail Work Days and that about 65% of those are returning people. She has now completed the transfer of responsibilities from Anne Strand including access to the on-line volunteer sign-up tool.

- Invasive Plants Director, Danny Leigh (report attached) covered the highlights of his group's efforts to include working with the NPS Exotic Plant Management Team, the SCA kids, and a landowner to the Park to help minimize the introduction of exotic plants to the Park.

- Communications Director, Fred Feltmann (report attached) covered the three primary means (e-mail, newsletter, Facebook) of connecting with our 'fans', and spoke to both the positives and negatives of each.

-The next agenda item covered was the adoption of the latest changes (attached) to the KMTC By-Laws. These changes were reviewed and approved by the Board at their July 2018 meeting. The attendees at the Annual Business Meeting voted unanimously to adopt the changes and they will be implemented immediately.

-Look Ahead

- The Crew Leader Training planned for November will focus more on safety and will be based on training provided by the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club and the Georgia Appalachian Conservancy.

- The Trail Ambassador program will continue to emphasize recruitment and training.

- In appreciation of their number of volunteers, the quality of the work they perform, and the senior leadership they provide, the Trail Director proposed a JROTC specific Trail Work Day as early as this November or, perhaps, this coming Spring. It could be followed by a BBQ or t-shirt distribution in appreciation.

- Don Olds advised that he'd met with KSU regarding their inquiry about a communications/marketing class project. He spoke to them about KMTC and our mission, and was questioned by them for about 45 minutes. KSU will present the results of their effort sometime in November and will likely focus on the recruitment of both Crew Leaders and Trail Ambassadors on Club Trail Work Days. Don will take the presentation and all Club Members are encouraged to accompany him.

- There's an intention to improve our eight First Aid kits which include gloves, bandages, insect bite/sting spray, etc. We'd like to have an AED (defibrillator) but they are quite expensive.

- Plants Director, Danny Leigh, is looking at ways to expand our invasive plants eradication/control program.

- There was a discussion on limiting Boy Scout projects. Scout projects must enhance or restore existing structures and may not focus on maintenance. Over the past 7 years, there have been 115 scout projects involving 2189 volunteers for a total of 17,547 hours.

-New Business

- Treasurer, Tom Okerberg, advised that the park received a \$10,000 grant from the National Park Foundation to support Title 1 schools with programming and transportation. The park would like KMTC to be the financial administrator of the grant.

- Trail Director, Bruce Rugg, brought up the problem of visitor complaints about graffiti in the park. He advised that there is graffiti removal spray in the tool shed.

- Feedback on the SCA summer group was that they were efficient, eager, worked hard, and had strong leadership.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM. The next Quarterly Board Meeting is set for October 29th, 2018 at 6:30PM in the Park Visitors' Center Education Room.