

CRAG-VT BOARD MEETING

May 3, 2022 – Zoom & at Mammut

In Attendance: Phil, Lauren, Christian, Seth, Kris, Mischa, Steve, Pete, Hunter, Rob

Absent: Paco,

Guests: Dick, GeneO/GD, Christian, Jordan

Start Time 6:30 pm End Time 8:30 pm

BOARD BUSINESS AND GREETINGS

- Treasurer Report
 - See treasurer report for more info
 - Tools purchased
 - CRAG VT Debit card acquired
 - Next couple of months look good for non-membership revenue
- Executive Director Report
 - Met with ANR about problem sites
 - plans for site visits, future collab
 - Email requests for visits with Lone Rock Point and Prospect Rock
 - Suggestion from Kris: Kel would be great to attend Prospect Rock.
 - Mischa would like to attend the meeting at Prospect Rock also
 - Summer Kick Off (June 11)
 - Grill - Hunter can provide
 - Board Volunteers for cooking, tabling, etc.
 - Kris - dometop table project
 - Phil
 - Mischa
 - Hunter
 - Peter - may not be available; two weeks from now will know more
 - Seth
 - Steve - start of summer camp, but should be able to be there
 - Non-Board Trail Crews
 - Jordan
 - GeneO/Sean - Kiosks (Quarry)
 - will be assigned volunteers
 - Reminder: As committees do things, keep Lauren informed. Would be good to help share for outreach (1 or 2 sentences/short blurb, w/ photo)
 - Sean - Volunteer Profile (Lauren to send template from Access Fund)
 - May Crag Rag - (Mike?) Article from Climbing Mag
 - June Crag Rag - Anna (check out Climbing article about Lone Rock Pt)
 - May 19th - Online Auction
 - Vermont Rock from Travis
 - Mammut

- Funds for Dome Repayment
 - Takeover - linking experience of being at Dome with development of the Dome (Dick)
 - Google Drive Transfer (currently in transition)
 - email changes
 - Important for those with CRAG acct have access and maintain access
 - Options to manage additional email acct
 - Forward from current email
 - Reach out to Phil or Paco for access issues
 - At some point, will close old Gmail acct
 - Intended for all CRAG correspondence
 - All board members have an alias with their name (e.g. Phil@cragvt.com)
 - shared drive change
 - File owners need to move their own files
 - Paco's thorough instructions in shared drive (if you have access to your acct, you have access to those instructions)
 - Phil and Paco both committed to completing file transfer
 - Phil has moved all files he has access to
- Membership Report (7PM or After)
 - See membership report for detailed info
 - People donating slightly less
 - Great new graphing
 - Idea from Dick: With annual membership renewal reminder emails, might help to ask if they would like to increase their donation
- Board Business
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COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Stewardship (**Mischa**, Steve, Phil, Jordan Rowell, Sean Neely, Mark Klonicke, Dennis Delay, Dick Katzman, GeneO Desideraggio)
 - Tool Acquisition
 - Jordan: will drop off tools at Mischa's garage
 - Balance b/t affordable box store tools and local businesses
 - Trail Services LLC, Maine: remaining tools to ship
 - Black Mountain Public Meeting
 - Working with FPR for zoom mtg Thurs 6:30pm
 - Defending CRAG management plans
 - Answering questions
 - One of last hoops to be a Corridor Manager for Strategic Mountain Lands
 - Open meeting: well informed users most helpful for attendance
 - Travis will lead meeting
 - Link went to board
 - Other Climber/Advocates can request link from Mischa
 - Green Up Day (Saturday, May 7)

- 8 volunteers signed up so far
 - Steve has offered to do intro for CRAG
 - Will capture photos
 - Bolton Dome Stabilization Project Update
 - Contractor bids to be discussed as board only at end of tonight's board meeting
 - Documents circulated to board today
 - Dick Katzman invited
 - Town of Bolton asking if we'd like to meet as one group of recreation users (No date yet)
 - Recreational Roundtable - began as parking issues meeting; evolved to other
 - Parking
 - 20+ cars over weekend at Upper West
 - neighbors complaining
 - some cars encroaching on travelway
 - 20+ cars over weekend on US Route 2 at Dome (lot was full)
 - Parking issues will persist as important issue
 - Maybe a carpooling campaign (Hilite park and ride areas in Waterbury, Richmond, etc.)
 - Kiosks/Trail Counters
 - Kiosk: Inventory of structure and content
 - Prioritized
 - Dome: Low priority. Would be good to move sign in boxes to kiosk
 - Quarry: High priority for both structure and content
 - Summer Kick Off
 - Lower West: minor repairs needed
 - Upper West: most outdated signage (high priority for content)
 - UUW: Maybe worth requesting some real estate
 - Lone Rock Point: Parking lot Kiosk needs new content
 - Parking lot not used any more
 - Will move to a digital sign in
 - New sign ready to place at cliff base.
 - Good to add one sheet to each cliff (QR Code)
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 - Use Fast Signs for new content
 - Travis offered to provide maps from Vermont Rock
 - Add history of land heritage (eg. Abenaki Board)
 - Was approved by Board previously. (Kris to connect with GeneO)
 - User Survey
 - Sean to take lead, Kris to support.
- Access (**Christian**, Seth, Sam, Pete, Adam Sherman)
 - Good time to reconnect with Bolton, etc. to be part of VOREC
 - Has been in touch with Pam Gude aka Flask (sp?) about parking area closed near Knapp (sp?)
 - Has some leads on developing new lot to replace Libby's Lookout lot

- See notes above for meetings and potential attendees
- June 14 or 20, or 21 - potential meeting dates
- Discussion topic:
 - Stowe Resort/Town of Stowe about VT 108 parking lot
 - Steve: parking lot will be paved next season so ice access will be limited
 - State invested substantially into parking lot and nature walk
 - Anybody with other intel/connections that might be helpful, contact Christian
- Lone Rock Meeting (Pete)
 - 4th annual meeting with Lone Rock (part of MOU)
 - High visibility area. Important relationship.
 - one hour productive meeting
 - assembled annual Lone Rock Climbing report available online
 - nice to stay invited to table of partners with Lone Rock
 - 'We are perceived as the most responsible [stewards]'
 - Extended signing time period of MOU from annual to every three years
 - Have lost some interaction with Kiosks over last year. Plans to update sign in to electronic, etc.
 - Pete, Seth, Lauren attended
 - Seth: Pete is being humble. Model partnership manager.
 - Will be nice to consolidate requests to every three years
 - Lauren: Pleasure to be at meeting and see fruits of Pete's work (and Seth)
 - Partners BBQ May 27th: Pete, Lauren (also representing other orgs, would be good to get some other CRAGrs
 - Burne
 - Many climbers over the weekend
 - Other rec users
 - Is it time to lean in and work on access or keep simmering?
 - Kris: 30 people gets noticed. Hard grades not keeping the numbers thin. Grocery store parking. Might be good to get some quantities of climber users (trail counter?)
 - Pete: black flies may buy time. Many landowners have had positive interactions with climbers and only users. Eighty landowners to work with. Many allies (regular hikers)
 - Seth: was at capacity over weekend. Will become problem w/ landowners. Landowners can see it directly, but it's going to get on their radar.
 - State Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) meeting (Seth)
 - Thieves wall (Camel's Hump)
 - Very productive discussion
 - ANR doesn't want unauthorized trail building, tree cutting
 - Bob Ziano State Ecologist
 - Not planning to close trail
 - Plan subsequent meeting at the site (Steve up for joining meeting with Seth); make call on steps moving forward

- State would prefer dispersed bushwacking over formal trail
- 50 people per day vs 3 people day would be big difference
- What areas of Camel's Hump are in Climbing Exclusionary Zone
- Managed to settle concerns; not clear if trail will stay or if it needs formal authorization process (Act 250)
- Still on good terms with State
- Informative to get broader understanding of ANR's concerns
- Also discussed Big Deer Mtn in Groton State Forest
 - Bolted routes within inches of rare ferns
 - Travis to reach out to any locals to discuss
 - Not a popular climbing area
- Attended by Seth, Lauren, Travis
- Didn't discuss Marshfield Trail
 - State isn't proactive about establishing trail
- Bob stressed majority of rare plants on State land in VT are in Smuggler's Notch (by large margin)
- Future meeting: Interest by Seth, Travis, Steve
- Events (**Andrew**, Anna, Lauren, GeneO Desideraggio)
 - No April meeting
 - Bottom of agenda review past and future events
 - Sip Of Sunshine Untapped event June 30th
- JDEI (**Hunter**, Kris, Paco, Rob, Joscie Norris)
 - Narrowing down project plans
 - In research phase for several projects
 - Each committee member championing project
 - Projects:
 - 1. Higher internal JDEI Trainer - help board look at work through JDEI lens
 - 2. Scholarships for members of underrepresented communities
 - guides
 - climbing outside
 - 3. Events for underrepresented climbing groups (eg. BIPOC, Queer, etc.)
 - 4. Easement language to recognize indigineous land
 - 5. Wheelchair accessibility for lower west
 - 6. Income-based program to lower financial barriers to climbing
 - Please contact Hunter with input/connections
 - Kris: pared down list from 14 to six highest priority
 - This list is not a list of what we will do but a list of what we are researching as a means of figuring out what each project would entail to bring them to the board.
- Dick had discussions with two individuals about ties Bolton (eg. Dome) to Abenaki
 - Abenaki lookout on dome, multiple caches below
 - 13,000 years of human use
 - Good content for Kiosk
 - Seth heard kudos about Dome Allowed Usage Agreement

- Kris will reach out to Chief Stevens

Kris taking over notes from here:

- Bid voting for the Bolton Dome Trail Stabilization Project
 - Hiring a contractor to complete the work for a staircase to the Railroad gully and work at the Dr's slabs.
 - Because the project was over \$10k we sent out an RFP to get bids from multiple sources as recommended by the Access Fund. It was sent to 4 contractors.
 - Hermit Woods, Timber and Stone LLC, Access Fund, Castle Rock Stonecraft.
 - Jordan Rowell (Project Manager) has a prior relationship with Hermit Woods (disclosure)
 - The vote is not to agree to enter, but to enter into an MOU, basically it's prior to contract to make sure that the state approves of our process.
 - Open forum for Questions:
 - Bid cost is within amount of funds allocated for the project
 - Vote: To enter into an MOU with Hermit Woods to explore the possibility of entering into contract to complete the work of the Bolton Dome Trail Revitalization Project.
 - Vote is via email. No results yet.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Rock Talk May TBD, Switchback, w/ GeneO
- Summer Kickoff June 11, 8AM, The Quarry

OTHER BUSINESS

- Peregrine Falcon Update: Lauren updated website, social channels today
- Rachel Pfaff: recent accident. Steve will get a card started from Board.
- Thank you to Mammut for allowing us to use their space to meet!
- Rob will be absent in June
 - I'll create templates for each month and put them into the shared drive
 - Please fill out the template and I can post them on the website later on in the week
 - June - Paco
 - Add this to the Agenda as first item