

Minutes: ACC-Ottawa Exec meeting
Mon, Sept 25, 2023 @ 7:00

We gathered at 6:45 for pizza and drinks.

Attendance:

-in person Bill Barrett, Chris Bedford, Eric Armstrong, George Gebara, Katarina Goetze, Mike Chen, Paul Way
-on-line: Andrew Robbins, Conor McCarthy, Elfrieda Bock
-absent: Cynthia Modjeski

We reviewed and approved the **agenda** and the **minutes** of the previous meeting, May 23, 2023

We reviewed our **upcoming activities:**

Sept 29 – Oct 1	ADK hiking trip (Paul W)
Sept 30	CragCare's Boulder Bash
	Calabogie climbing (Phong)
Oct 7	Manitou Mountain hike (Terry L)
Oct 8	Gatineau Park hike (Paul W)
Oct 12 – 15	New Hampshire hiking trip (Bill B)
Oct 21	CAJ launch at MEC Ottawa
Oct 22	Gatineau Park traverse (Grant B)
Oct 27 – 29	ADK hiking (Mike B)
Oct 29	Frontenac Park hike (Geoff R)
Nov 3 to 5	Winter Corvee at Keene Farm (supported by ACC-Ottawa) (Bill B)
Nov 11	Dacre Heights work day (Bill B)

Administrative updates:

-Access: Conor reported that Gat Park is planning a full review and update of fixed gear at the climbing sites that are open, they will be working with FQME on this, George stressed the importance of honouring the history of a climb when retrofitting it; ACC-Ottawa will continue to monitor the first aid caches and an on-line reporting system is being put in place so missing supplies can be reported and replaced

-Finances/membership: Elfrieda reported that our finances are in good shape and that membership has spiked recently, mainly new people interested in climbing; we discussed ways to survey members when they don't renew their membership to see why but no action on this at this point; there are still issues with the national membership portal and she continues to liaise with their staff when there are problems

-Exec communication: we discussed our switch from personal to club based email accounts; work still needs to be done on this, Mike and Elfrieda are the points of contact for any questions; we will plan an on-line meeting with a focus on our use of our Google Workspace in the coming months

-Club gear: Eric reported that the gear hut has been fixed by Ken McNair (broken hinge)

-Social last pub night was small turnout but enjoyable; next pub night Oct 12

-Website: Mike continues his work on our website the next steps involve documents which have been on the old site, where best to store them and who needs access to them? Paul asked if the hiking levels information could be put back on the website, it was information that hikers regularly referred to. Mike will do this and he will share a link to the documents archive with everybody. People are very happy with Mike's work on the site. It is simpler and easier to navigate which were our first objectives. We also discussed our activities calendar, who has access to it and best way to use it to serve our members. No decision was made but we considered whether there should be separate calendars for each activity?

Activity Updates:

-climbing: Rockfest was a big success, we had to turn people away. Could we make it bigger? Do we want to collaborate with Outaouais section on it? Great job by Andrew Pohran and Jolly Maglesh in handling this event. Who will take it on next year?

-**family**: good family participation at Rockfest

-**hiking**: they are several day hikes and weekend trips on the calendar now, we continue to look for leaders

-**training/safety**: a wilderness first aid course was held on Sept 9/10. Participant response was overall positive and we are comfortable continuing to work with this provider for future courses (she offers us a good price and is willing to work with us), there is interest in an Advanced WFA course from some of the participants. We need to come back to whether we subsidize this for our trip leaders and how we might do that? The cost is significantly higher than it has been in the past.

Other items:

-national:

-Elfrieda will represent the section at the regional reps meeting Oct 12 – 14 (on-line), all exec members are also invited and have been asked to sign up for workshops that are in their areas of interest

-national has asked us to recommend candidates for the board of directors

-national has set up on-line DEI training (Elfrieda and Bill have signed up)

-national has indicated that they may require members to have additional medical insurance for club trips outside of Canada, details needed (Bill to ask for clarification)

-we are encouraged to consider people for the national awards

-national has indicated that sections may need to purchase additional insurance if alcohol is being served/sold at club events (Bill to ask for more information)

-we have been asked to work with MEC on Oct 21 to promote the release of the **Canadian Alpine Journal** (Katarina said she would help with this)

-**collaboration with Outaouais**: exec members are keen to work with Outaouais on events in the future

-we were approached to see if we would provide **financial support for a local crag developer** who wants to get their certifications and begin delivering courses locally, our regular provider has indicated he is moving toward retirement, we are not willing to put money up front but would be willing to commit to working with a new instructor once they were certified

-the **on-line waiver** continues to be difficult to implement especially when it comes to accessing member info, and participants' emergency contact info; we are currently using a combo of on-line and paper waivers but there is a move to go back to paper until every member is on-line (next May)

-we agreed that our **AGM** would continue to be on-line with a volunteer appreciation in person event (as we did last year)

-all were in support of the donation of a half day of ice climbing offered as an auction item for Ecology Ottawa

-a new member, KW, has expressed interest in being supported by the section for the upcoming Winter TNF leadership course, we will need to meet with her and get a commitment for section involvement if we do endorse her

-deferred to next meeting:

-emergency communication on trips: support for use of InReach:

-summer camps: review and looking to next summer

Next meetings: Oct 30