

## **Explore North Coast Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 7, 2021

**Present:** Larry Buwalda, Scott Hagerty, Kathleen Kinkela-Love, Marcella Ogata-Day, John Schmidt, Steve Smith, Jennifer Tavares

**Absent:** None

6:00 P.M. President Scott Hagerty called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

### **Reports**

**Treasurer/Secretary Report:** John reported that ENC ended 2020 with a slight profit of almost \$159 with an ending account balance of \$7991. Active membership at the end of 2020 was 65 members.

**Paddle Host Coordinator Report:** Steve reported that ENC had 40 paddling events scheduled for 2020. Thirty events (75%) were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and 2 were cancelled for weather-related reasons; thus, only 20% of the club's paddling events were held. For the seven events that were hosted, there were a total of 68 participants. Steve also reported that due to the pandemic, only two paddle hosts have volunteered to host paddles for 2021, so far. Steve will continue to check-in with the paddle hosts on a monthly basis to see if any are willing to host events. Hopefully, once members start to become vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, more paddle hosts will feel comfortable hosting events.

### **New Business**

**Election of Board Officers for 2021:** By acclamation, Board officers will remain the same in 2021 as they were for 2020. Thus, ENC President for 2021 is Scott Hagerty; Vice President is Kathleen Kinkela-Love; Secretary/Treasurer is John Schmidt; Recording Secretary is Steve Smith.

One former board member, Celine Pele, elected not to seek another term with the Board after her term ended in 2020. Celine has agreed to continue helping Kathleen with managing the book sales.

**ACA Dues Changes and Impacts on ENC:** At the end of 2020 the American Canoe Association (ACA) raised its dues to \$40 for individual members. The Board is reluctant to raise ENC fees, which currently require members to join the ACA, in this pandemic climate, since ENC has been unable to offer few services to the membership. Marcella provided an excellent analysis of the challenges of the new ACA fee structure and how ENC might respond. She proposed that family memberships be discontinued for ENC and that we offer two membership tiers. In the first tier, members join only ENC and would not be required to join the ACA. Individuals selecting this tier would then be required to pay \$5 per event (and, as such, become ACA Event Members) they attend to cover the ACA insurance. The second membership tier would be for paddlers who plan to participate in multiple events and pay the ENC club fee but would also join the ACA. Tier two members

would then be exempt from paying individual event insurance fees, as those are included in the ACA membership. While this restructuring of the ENC membership fees would eliminate the need for ENC to process ACA memberships, it would create additional paperwork for paddle hosts to process ACA Event Members (i.e., tier one members). The Board decided that the proposal for changing the ENC fee structure and ACA membership be sent to the membership via the newsletter to solicit comments.

**Membership Management Updates:** John and Marcella are pleased with the new membership management software. Marcella suggested that we remind members whose annual membership is about to expire to check their spam folders from time to time to ensure they don't miss the reminders that come from the software.

**2021 Preliminary Budget Discussion:** Because of the pandemic-induced uncertainty of paddling events for 2021, Scott asked for board input on a few miscellaneous issues associated with the 2021 budget.

**Merchandise.**—Scott reported that dry bags with the ENC logo are being sold and will provide an accounting to John before the next meeting.

**Brochures.**—ENC has a good supply of brochures, however the change in the ACA and ENC fee structure will require them to be updated.

**Out of Town Reservations.**—Again, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to anticipate whether ENC should budget for overnight reservations for paddle events during the summer.

**Lecture Series.**—Public gathering restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic have prevented ENC from hosting the bi-monthly lecture series. Marcella suggested that ENC consider conducting the lecture series via Zoom until face-to-face meetings are possible. Kathleen will explore this with the lecture series coordinator, Mike Zeppegno

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be in about three weeks, with the date and time to be arranged via email.

Minutes taken and submitted by Steven A. Smith

Minutes Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Board Officer

DATE