

**General Meeting October 2, 2012**

The meeting was held at the Long Ridge Tavern and was called to order at 7:45 by John Olshan. All board members were present:

Guests present.

Steve Kurgic

Secretary’s Update - Lori gave an update on board activities since the new board was elected including:

Transition of responsibilities from prior board members to new

Setting of new summer & winter lodge fees

Scheduling RHSC Summer Olympics, board & general meetings. These are now published on the website.

Update from the RHSC president John Olshan:

RHSC is 80! As many members are aging out of skiing, we’re going to have a snowball effect. As member age out, we need to replace them with new members. Often new members bring friends who help keep the values of the club to stay the same.   
  
Challenges – membership is down; we had a very bad ski season last year and Killington shut down in March. We’re transitioning lodge funding from lodge usage to membership dues.

Treasurer’s report by Tom Hughes:

Club finances:

We’re on solid financial ground at the moment. We are also depending on a great season to shore up finances. We had a few large unexpected expenses this year including the replacement of the water heater & oil tank.

We have 40 members who have paid their dues (due yesterday) 35 who haven’t paid yet. We need them to sign up another year.

If our mission is to be an affordable way for families to ski, we strive to keep the membership dues low.

Discussion of the summer buyout program

We offer the entire lodge for rent for $300/night or $250 if you’d allow 10 other people to be there too. Summer is beautiful at the lodge and offers many activities including hiking; kayaking and a spa close by – fun fun! We need to encourage use of the lodge during the summer. This approach makes renting the whole lodge approachable & affordable.

Dues and rates have been set for the 2012 -2013 season:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Members | Members | Guests | Guests |
|  | Adult | Child (2-15) | Adult | Child (2-15) |
| 2 day Winter weekend | 50 | 30 | 75 | 45 |
| 3 day Holiday Winter weekend | 75 | 45 | 110 | 65 |
| Winter weekday (holiday or not) | 20 | 15 | 30 | 25 |
| Off season | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |

Operations - Lodge condition report given by John Olshan:

Lodge is in great shape –ready for the season!

* We have a new boiler and plenty of hot water now!
* Septic system was cleaned out.

Maintenance report Bob Boothroyd

* Plans for work weekends
* Just completed a work weekend in September where 12 people attended
* Another is scheduled for the weekend of 10/12 -14.

Lodge is in good shape. We’ve taken care of a lot of the big things over the years. There’s no better way to make the lodge feel like your own than to participate!

Membership report by Beth Cross

* Prospective members introduced themselves:
* Karly Mitchell from Fairfield CT
* Kris and Alison Didonna from Bloomingberg NY
* Rich & Jenn Freeda – friends of Anne & John. Came to the club last year President’s Day.
* Chris & Allison – friends of Victoria who also attended the work weekend.
* Steve Kercheck
* Renewals 40 members renewed still 40ish to come in.

Meet & Greet tentatively scheduled for the end of October. Intended for potential new members to meet current members in a less formal meeting. This is a great opportunity for people to find out about the club in a more social environment-

Communications Discussion by John Olshan

What is the best way to reach members? An informal poll was taken and almost everyone at the meeting receives & opens the email. General feeling was we’re not and can’t over communicate

Activities and Programs by Heather Lopresti

Summer Olympics- we tried to take advantage of the lodge for a summer weekend since the house is generally not used during the off-season. About 10 people attended and went kayaking golfing biking, mountain biking. This is something to make an annual summer event tradition. Need to start the planning earlier so that people can put it on their calendar.

It would be a great idea for members to share their “tips” or experiences – such as:

* Breathtaking reservoir 10 minutes from the lodge. You can fish in it too.
* The community pool is near Bradley’s hardware. As members we’re entitled to use the pool.
* 80th Birthday party 73 people attended & the finances tallied a mere -$16!!! Thanks for the committee members’ hard works Arne brought mums. Curt made a great collage! Special thanks to John & Kelly for offering their lovely home for the party. Many prior members attended including past presidents! Great catering.

Open discussion:

* Ct Ski Council has a trip scheduled to Alaska – right before the Ididarod. Flyers available.
* Trip to Quebec is full. 57-passenger bus is full! Jan 31 – Feb 5- during Winter Carnival.
* RHSC needs an ambassador to represent the RHSC at the CT Ski Council. This involves attending a few meetings and selling tickets for the Ct Ski Council Snow Ball and going to Hartford to attend the dance. RHSC comps the ambassadors room for the Snow Ball (Nov 17th at Hartford Marriott = $99 rate) Snow Ball = the kick off to the ski season! $20 or $25 at the door. RHSC needs to solicit donations.
* Note -On the Snow weekend at Okemo. Mt Snow will give group rate lift ticket if you have your RHSC membership card.
* Bulk ticket purchases were coordinated by Bob & Kathy Henner. Thank you Bob & Kathy!
* Bob Boothroyd –There are roughly 40 ski clubs in the Ski council. Clubs in Sugar Bush are interested in reciprocity with RHSC. The concept would be guests from other ski clubs (with reciprocity) get to book the lodge at member rates. Not necessarily with priority, but at member rates. This is a club with similar values, culture and a very nice lodge.
* We are sorry to learn, and share that Ben Wheeler’s girlfriend Santana passed away from an aneurism.
* Ideas – timely cashing of checks please! Weekend coordinators need to turn in the checks within a week. We’re exploring using bank cards to pay for lodge rates. There was a vote & members would like to have the option to pay electronically.
* Putting a TV in the lodge was suggested & unanimously voted down…
* Meet & Greet at the Olshan’s on Oct 25th @ at 7:30 This is a cocktail party and includes kids!

Next meeting = Nov 13th & it’s the Coordinator Meeting – you need to be trained every year!

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm