

Meeting Minutes—Wednesday, August 12, 2020
Zoom conference 1830-2000

Attendees

Tim Appleton, Justin Regan, Mike Gajdosik, Michael Lapierre, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Jenny O'Donnell, Larry Hyatt, Sue-
Ellen Repeta, Skip Mudge

Not in Attendance

Chuck Boyd, Mike Bafuma, Peter Bayer, Thomas Kim, Paul Katz, Cally Regan, Austin Hochstrate, Mark Pahmer,
Tony Philpin

Note: due to extended power outage in CT, some invitees were unable to attend.

ACTION ITEMS

- **Skip:** Maintain updated resource listing on the website—COVID-19, calendar, programs. Distribute the Ski Sundown recommendations to Patrol Leadership and Program Advisors.
- **Tim Appleton:** Discuss, with Peter Bayer and Paula Knight, the ability of us to carry over some of the requirements, (e.g., OEC skills competency checklist and written scenarios) into next season.
- **Justin Regan:** Discuss the IT oversight issue with the division.
- **All Program Advisors:** review COVID-19 guidance (NSP, CDC, COOPED-UP, local area, etc.) Much of this can be accessed from CTNSP.org. Work with staff. Consider issues and how best to manage program(s) with the knowledge that our understanding of this virus continues to evolve.

Administrative Announcements

Website Review: A quick overview of the website including COVID-19 resources, calendar, Zoom meeting reservations. Please check the website and make sure your program information is current and accurate. Send calendar information (meetings, clinics, evaluations, etc.), even if tentative. Photos and other information should be sent to John Segretta or Skip Mudge

CT Region Zoom Account: Available to all for classes, planning meetings, etc. To reserve/set up a Zoom meeting, check the calendar. If your desired time slot appears to be open, fill in the reservation form at the bottom of the calendar page. Reservations available on a first come, first served basis.

YAP Everyday Heroes: YouTube, Instagram, Facebook broadcast the first Thursday of the month at 2030. This was kicked off August 6. Next broadcast will be September 3. There is a link to the YouTube broadcast in the calendar.

Open Positions: Posted on region website. We are still looking for a regional Historian and Administrative Assistant. A new position is the CT Region ORM Advisor. Eastern Division just filled the divisional position and we are looking for someone to provide leadership at the regional level. All positions are listed on the CT Region website. Contact Skip if you have any questions, nominations, or suggestions.

COVID-19 Discussions

Skip: It seems highly unlikely that we will see things ease up this season, in fact we might see things get worse before they improve. There will likely be a confluence of flu and coronavirus in the fall, further complicating things and stressing our healthcare system. It is unlikely that a vaccine will be available on a widespread basis until late winter/spring at the earliest. We will probably not realize any herd immunity benefits until spring at best. We don't seem to be close to any proven treatments. There is some evidence of different strains that may further complicate the vaccine/treatment issue. And finally, it seems that many folks are "getting tired" of COVID-19 and will become lax in their desires to wear face coverings and socially distance. People may increasingly socialize (restaurants, bars, gyms, etc.) leading to an increase in COVID-19 cases. Larry shared that he has seen a relaxation of mask wearing and social distancing during baseball events the last couple of weeks.

We need to be prepared for such eventuality. We can easily scale our plans back if things improve. It is much more difficult to ramp things up during an escalating crisis. Patrols are developing procedures in preparation for the winter season, whatever that may look like. Program Advisors should be doing the same. We need to have discussions with our staff. In addition, advisors should become familiar with resources currently available, with the knowledge that this is a dynamic situation. We are still learning more about this every day. Some resources are:

- CDC guidelines (available through our region website)
- AHA guidelines (available through our region website)
- NSP guidelines (available through our region website)
- COOPED-UP guidelines (available through our region website)
- COVID-19 resources (available through our region website)
- State guidelines (available through our region website)
- Local and Ski Area guidelines

It is important to note that while NSP and the Eastern Division provide guidelines to reduce the risks, these are guidelines only, and are intended to help us develop our own plans and local protocols that meet our specific needs. They are not intended to be a “one-size-fits-all” solution. Every program and patrol has a unique situation—customers, staff expertise, facilities, finances, etc.

Sue-Ellen clarified some data from the recent Duke University experiment in which numerous masks were evaluated—see the link to this on our website. The common belief had been that anything is better than nothing. Duke’s study indicated that fleece neck gaiters actually made things worse by breaking the droplets into smaller particles which remain airborne longer and travel farther. It was a bit unclear if this was also true of the NSP-type neck gaiters as well. Obviously, more research is needed. The current thinking among many patrollers is that we wear a neck gaiter whenever we are on the hill, then when approaching a patient, switch over to a surgical-type mask, and then an N95 if/when needed (e.g. a patient is coughing, sneezing, requires CPR, etc.) Sue-Ellen also mentioned that CT ski area managers are currently engaged in meetings to discuss these issues as well. We are not aware of any patrol representation at these meetings.

Potential Impact on Our Programs

OET: We will probably not go out of state for our clinics this season. Fortunately, Ski Sundown has a trail that meets the requirements for Senior OET (Satan’s Stairway). One issue that needs to be addressed with Eastern Division OET is that an IT would need to come in from out of state to oversee the evaluation. If this prevents us from running an evaluation, would there be enough interest in running the program as a training-only program for the 2020-21 season?

Sr. OEC: One possibility is that we do paperwork, Zoom “clinics” and demos, perhaps some quick fires this year. The question was raised regarding the ability to carry over some of the skills into next year, such as the OEC skills competency checklist and the written scenario work. Tim will discuss this with Peter Bayer and Skip. Another issue is that of marketing our programs. Patrollers typically indicate their interest by signing up at the refresher. Patrollers would need to understand that it would be a two-year effort. Some may decide to just wait until 2021-22 season.

MTR: Most MTR courses are comprised of out-of-region patrollers (last season was an anomaly in that respect). It might be best to look locally this year and do a two-year hybrid course with the bookwork and some Zoom classes online this season followed by a one-day skills workshop next season.

If this is going to be a season in which many patrollers scale back their involvement in active patrolling, providing educational opportunities such as these, in a safe environment, might be a way to keep them involved, develop new skills and knowledge, and keep their head in the game so to speak, until they return to full speed next season.

YAP: Need to look at what is responsible. YAPs have a small window of opportunity. Goal is to give them as much of the normal YAP experience as possible. That may be Zoom meetings and clinics, or local area clinics

run by local instructors. These kids are experts a Zoom. In last week's YAP broadcast, Craig Larson mentioned that they were working on something for the YAPs, in particular, those who were "aging out" of the program.

Region Ski Areas

Mount Southington: Patrol leadership has been in discussions with area management. The General Manager has been invited to the next patrol Board of Directors meeting. Most of the region's areas are dependent to some degree, on racing and after-school programs. Southington is planning on a racing program and is encouraging early purchase of season passes in anticipation of the possibility that the state may limit season pass sales. Management is unsure about the after-school programs for the season. Bristol schools are moving forward with their sports programs.

Ski Sundown: Kathy Fitzpatrick described a set of documents that she and Steve Goldblatt had created ("COVID-19 Concerns & Recommendations for Ski Sundown", "Waver for 2020/21 Candidate Patrollers" and "2020/21 Ski Patrol Season Preparation Information due to COVID-19"). These were presented to area management, but patrol has not been included in their meetings. The General Manager said that he would like to review the documents, then have a Zoom meeting with patrol to discuss this, followed by a joint walk through the area to explore this in further detail. The other critical step is to determine how many patrollers may be returning for the upcoming season. This is addressed by the "Preparation" document mentioned above.

On Monday, August 17, the division will be sending a survey to all Eastern Division patrollers which asks this question.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 2, at 1830

Respectfully submitted,

