

**Meeting Minutes—Wednesday, September 2, 2020**  
**Zoom conference 1830-2000**

**Attendees**

Chuck Boyd, Mike Bafuma, Justin Regan, Mike Gajdosik, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Larry Hyatt, Paul Katz, Sue-Ellen Repeta, Austin Hochstrate, Mark Pahmer, Tony Philpin, Skip Mudge

**Not in Attendance**

Michael Lapierre, Peter Bayer, Jenny O'Donnell, Thomas Kim, Cally Regan

**ACTION ITEMS FROM AUGUST 12 MEETING**

- **Skip:** Maintain updated resource listing on the website—COVID-19, calendar, programs. *[ONGOING]*. Distribute the Ski Sundown recommendations to Patrol Leadership and Program Advisors. *[COMPLETED 8/13/20]*
- **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. *[INCOMPLETE; REASSIGNED TO LARRY HYATT]*
- **Justin Regan:** Discuss the IT oversight issue with the division. *[PAUL KATZ CONTACTED ED DURING 9/2 MEETING.]*
- **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. *[MOST ADVISORS ARE WAITING TO SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP LOCALLY.]*

**NEW ACTION ITEMS FROM SEPTEMBER 2 MEETING**

- **Skip:** Maintain updated resource listing on the website—COVID-19, calendar, programs. Work on development of COVID-19 Self-Certification and waiver forms.
- **Chuck Boyd:** Send a copy of the Avalanche Covid-19 Guidelines for group's reference *[COMPLETED 9/9/20]*
- **Justin Regan:** Discuss the IT oversight issue with the division. *[COMPLETED 9/3/20]*
- **Larry Hyatt:** Meet with Tim and Peter to discuss plans for Sr. OEC in the upcoming season.
- **Sue-Ellen Repeta:** Speak with all OEC IORs regarding potential YAPs
- **All Program Advisors:** Work with staff to identify program-specific issue and develop plans to eliminate or mitigate risk.

**Administrative Announcements**

**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.

**Website Review:** Please check the website and make sure your program information is current and accurate. Send calendar information (meetings, clinics, evaluations, etc.), even if tentative.

**YAP Everyday Heroes:** YouTube, Instagram, Facebook broadcast the first Thursday of the month at 2030. Next broadcast will be September 3 [correction, next broadcast is Sep 17, featuring past Division Director, John Kane]. This is posted on our calendar.

**Open Positions:** Posted on region website. We are still looking for a regional Historian and ORM Advisor. Eastern All positions are listed on the CT Region website. Contact Skip if you have any questions, nominations, or suggestions.

**Awards:** There will be a push this upcoming season to generate more awards throughout our region. You will hear more from Mike and Skip on this as the season progresses. We will have our 2020 CT Region Awards Presentation (our banquet, but without food or beverages) on September 19 at Mt. Southington. Event will be live Zoomed and we will post the video on the website. Additional details on our website.

**Instructor Development:** Mike Gajdosik says there will be one “face-to-face” session for Pahquioque instructor candidates hosted by Anita Watson via Zoom (date to be announced). He has not heard from anyone else interested in an ID course at this time. Jim Miller, the Eastern Division ID Supervisor, has scheduled two Zoom face-to-face sessions (Oct 10 and 17 from 1100 to 1500). Class size is limited to 6. He will make more available if needed. You can contact him at [james.miller228@gmail.com](mailto:james.miller228@gmail.com).

## COVID-19 Discussions

**NSP Guidelines,** Issued August 25, 2020. We have published links to the most recent NSP guidelines on our website. These include: PPE & Mask Recommendations, Program-specific guidelines for OEC and MTR. Chuck said that Avalanche just published theirs. We will include this on our website when we get it.

**COVID Self-Certification Forms:** Each program has developed its own. Does it make sense to have one for our region? Skip will look into the development of forms that will work in CT. Medical and Legal will review and if they approve, we will share with those running programs in the region, and post on the website. As laws likely differ from state to state, it would make sense to have something specific to CT. The Avalanche Program has developed forms that Chuck said he would share with the group.

**CT Ski Area Association:** CT areas have been meeting and plan to have a written proposal for the state to review. This would present a consistent plan for safe ski area operations in our state. Expected date for this document is September 9.

**Questions:** What is happening in your programs? Have you been meeting with your staff? What are your concerns? Are there ways you can eliminate or mitigate these concerns? What opportunities do you see?

- **Avalanche:** Chuck reports that the Avalanche program is still working on how to best utilize Zoom. They have done a lot of work with PatrollerSchool.org for a couple years with the goal of doing all of the academic work online so that they could get the most out of time spent in the field. This should also reduce the number of days spent on site. One challenge is how to socially distance. Division courses require specific terrain. Only three areas in division, so people travel from all over division for multiple day events. Need for a large meeting room, as classes can be up to 18 participants (3 groups of 6) plus six instructors and an IT. Then the room has to be cleaned and sanitized after the class. They also generally do group meals which is problematic. Smuggs doesn't have a large enough room. Whiteface does. Mt. Washington works well as they use the Town & Country Resort. The inn has large enough meeting room to accommodate social distancing and their staff takes care of sanitizing before/after. Will be doing a virtual AMM in September. Expect to learn a lot from that.
- **OET:** still need to meet with program staff. Per Jim O'Connor, [per email following the meeting, this is an evolving situation and ski area decisions will have a lot to do with this. They are looking at state travel/quarantine policies, NSP/NSAA, state and local guidelines. Expect to have more info by early October] Question about areas being resistant to regional events. They are actively promoting racing programs, so should not be an issue.
- **YAP:** No new updates. With classes starting up at Southington, Powder Ridge, Sundown and possibly Mohawk, Sue-Ellen and Austin will be getting names of potential YAPs. They had planned to do some out of region work with Roger DelGiorno and Paul Sebben. But may need to re-think that. Craig Larson will likely be starting up his regular Monday meetings in October.
- **ID:** Plan is to run the “face-to-face” presentations through Zoom.
- **Sr. OEC:** No new updates. Will meet with Tim and Peter.
- **Safety:** Purchasing tent for CT. Can be used for Safety, YAP, recruiting or other patrol events. Tent will probably be based with Kathy. There is a tracking program that can be used from smartphone. Contact Kathy or Jenny. Safety Kits have been ordered (include neck gaiters). Kicked off a social media campaign (Facebook, Instagram). Send photos to Kathy, Jenny or Melinda. Also, a new focus on mental health—more to come. Still working on getting Safety Captains in each patrol. One of the duties would be ensuring the Safety tents are in complete and in good condition upon receipt and

when handed off to another area. Austin Hochstrate is he Safety Captain for Southington; Patrick Cipriano for Powder Ridge [Eric Talbot for Pahquioque]. This can be a shared position.

- **Snowboard Enhancement:** Typically, a one day event in February. Have time to finalize plans. The last two years have been full capacity. Considering a two-day event (not necessarily consecutive days) AASI instruction for one full day plus a full day sled clinic (hopefully with bumps). Paul and Tom will make decision regarding one-day v. two-day clinic for upcoming season.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, October 7, at 1830**

Respectfully submitted,