

The Yodeler

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October 2019

Executive Board

President: *John Pinsky*

Vice President & Lodge Chair: *Peter Hardman*

Secretary: *Cindy Darcy*

Treasurer: *Kevin Baker*

Membership: *Lorelle and Les Yee*

Activities: *Eric Pearlman*

Communications: *Kristen Butler*

LexSki Membership Meetings

Meetings of the membership are held on the third Tuesday of the month at First Parish Church, Lexington (by the Green) at 7:30 p.m. in Parker Hall (rear entrance, lower level) unless otherwise noted.

Host families are responsible for bringing a snack and for set-up before and clean-up after each meeting. **If you can't serve, get a sub—in advance.** According to our contract with the church, **no nuts are allowed**, so please be sure that the food you bring is nut free.

October 15, 2019, 7:30-9:00: **Octoberfest**

Hosts: White, Weeks, Yasitis

Please bring: Appetizer: A-K (last name) Dessert: L-Z (last name)

November 19, 2019, 7:30-9:00: Meeting

Hosts: Yee, Baker, Brewer

December 17, 2019, 6:00-8:00: **Holiday Party**

Hosts: Butler, Chan, Colburn

President's Report

I hope everyone had a fantastic summer. The leaves are starting to change colors and even to fall. That can only mean one thing—skiing is not too far off.

We are kicking off the 2019-20 season with Oktoberfest this month. Eric is working hard to organize the event. We will have a short business meeting in order to update the progress of the reconstruction, which is going very well. Peter Hardman has worked very hard with MTR to make sure the projects are on time. He has also put in a lot of extra weekends to make sure we will be ready for ski season. We couldn't have had a better person to spearhead the reconstruction!

Our membership is currently at 43 families, but thanks to Les, the membership committee, and many of our members, we have 3 families that should be able to join this year and approximately 10 expressing strong interest. We will need sponsors for these families. So please answer the call. Also, if you know of any families you think would be a good fit, now would be a great time to encourage them to join. Our new friends and family policy eliminates the geographic requirement.

There is only one more work weekend left. If you haven't done yours yet, you are running out of time. Please get your reservations in soon so that the Lodge Committee can have time to plan the work to be done.

Hope to see everyone at Oktoberfest.

John
President

jpinsky@one2onebodyscapes.com

Lodge Report

The leaves are changing color and fall temperatures are here. Not long before they turn on the snow guns on the hills and start making our favorite form of H₂O. In the meantime we have to finish the repairs of the Ski Club which are still progressing.

In October, we plan on finishing the major renovations of the building. The front porch is now complete, with new roof shingles on this part of the building. At the rear we are re-pouring the concrete slabs that have sunk over the years to create sound footings for the porches which will be rebuilt. Inside we are insulating the attic with spray foam which will prevent the ice dams which caused all the issues which lead to the internal damage.

By the time you read this we will have had another work weekend, but there is still much to do. The largest jobs are: finishing the rooms at the front of the building and (24, 1, 2, 3) which have new walls and windows, but no trim as yet. We cannot wait until the last official work weekend in November to complete all the work, so I am encouraging any members who can spare time over the next few weekends to let me know if they can come and help get these rooms finished, so that we can give the building a thorough cleaning in November after the literal dust has settled.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Cheers,
Peter Hardman
Lodge Chair
peter_hardman@mac.com

Treasurer's Report

As of 10/6/19:

TD Bank – Cash Assets		
Operating Money Mkt Account	\$121,832.24	
Monthly Operating Expenses - Emergency Fund (Includes \$20K increase voted at last May budget meeting)	\$43,500.00	
Capital Improvement Fund Money Mkt	\$20,336.67	
Capital Improvement Donation Fund (Donations above and beyond Dues, for special projects)	\$2,470.00	
Checking Account	\$17,504.39	
BNE Escrow Fund	\$32,193.36	
Expenses		
2019-20 Lodge/Club budgeted operating expenses:		\$90,330.00
Construction Projects underway, but not yet invoiced:		\$83,652.92
10% set aside for cost overruns:		\$8,365.29
<hr/> Totals:	\$237,836.66	\$182,348.21
Current unallocated funds: (≈\$32K of which is held in escrow)	\$55,488.45	

I recently took over the Treasurer responsibilities from Dan Connell, and I am slowly getting up to speed with the responsibilities. I'd like to give Dan special thanks for guiding me through this transition, and keeping the club's finances in such an organized way. We all owe Dan a debt of gratitude for taking on this task for the last three years, and for guiding the Club's financials through the insurance settlement process. Over the last few months there were an unprecedented amount of financial transactions that Dan expertly navigated which allowed our financial position to remain strong. I hope to be as thorough as Dan as I take on these new responsibilities.

The numbers above show we currently have a large amount of cash on hand, and the club is in a very strong financial position. However, we do have a lot of upcoming bills that will need to be paid for construction projects that are underway, but not yet fully invoiced yet. Our cash balance should drop considerably in the next few months as projects come to completion. A number of other large projects remain on the horizon that will require substantial outlays. I will closely monitor our financial position as we move forward. There are several projects that have been proposed, but that are not included in the above numbers. I expect that the Lodge Chair and the E-Board will be prioritizing several additional projects that may get started before the 2020 ski season gets underway.

At the May budget meeting, the finance committee took a conservative approach to the budget, and predicted the loss of several families. We have benefitted from retaining nearly all the active families that we ended the last season with. I believe this demonstrates that our membership appreciates the value that our club represents.

In our approved FY 2020 budget we had projected receiving \$64,950.00 in dues and prepayments; we ended up collecting \$75,496.00. This has helped us finance some of the un-expected construction improvements and repairs that are currently underway. We also benefitted greatly from our insurance settlement being considerably larger than expected.

At the May membership meeting, the membership voted to allow the club to accept monetary donations above and beyond membership dues from anyone inclined to make a donation. This money is earmarked for Capital Improvements and other special projects that might not normally be funded through our operating budget. So far this year, the club has received \$2,470.00 in donations for this purpose. Thank you to those who contributed! If you would like to make a donation for this purpose feel free to reach out to me at any point. In the near future I hope to solicit suggestions on how we can utilize these earmarked funds.

Kevin Baker
Treasurer
617-293-9545

Membership Report

The off-season interest has been solid with the addition of seven new families to the "Pre-Prospective" list. We now have a healthy 13 families in the "Pre-Prospective" phase. These are families that have shown an interest in the Club, but have not yet made their first visit. An actual visit to the Club is a requirement to becoming a Prospective. The new families have come from Lexington Town Day and directly from existing members. Please remember the new rules regarding nonadjacent towns and send your potential members to the Membership Committee.

With a healthy "Pre-Prospective" list we will need to support of existing Club members who would be willing to Sponsor and guide prospective members through the process. If you are not currently sponsoring a prospective member we need your help.

The Ski Club is now listed in the Lexington Recreation Brochure and Website. The brochure is delivered to every household in Lexington. We would like to ask members with elementary school children to inquire about distributing flyers in backpacks and posting in local schools and businesses. The Membership Committee can supply the one-pagers.

The Membership Committee is in the final stages of pulling together a prospective member package. This package includes information needed to guide Prospectives through the approval process. Our goal is to make sure that we have answered all questions prior to getting to the final stages of acceptance.

Thanks,

Les and Lorelle
Membership Committee Chairs

Social Report

Kick off the upcoming ski season and join us for Oktoberfest which will be held during our first meeting of the year on October 15. Beer, wine, cider (non-alcohol) and other liquid refreshments will be provided.

Please bring: Appetizer: A-K (last name) Dessert: L-Z (last name)

Eric Pearlman, Social Committee Chair
eric@pearlmangroup.com
617-510-0399

Secretary Report

Lexington Ski Club
Membership Meeting Minutes
5/21/19

Members in attendance: 43

Membership:

There are currently 43 member families, 3 derivative members, 1 alumni family, and 2 families that have been offered membership and will be members as soon as they pay their invoice. There are 6 families in various stages of the membership pipeline.

The O'Donnell family has been announced as potential members in the Yodeler. If nobody objects, they will be offered membership in two weeks.

Lexington Discovery Day is Saturday May 25 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM (rain date June 1), and we are running a table for out reach and to recruit potential new members. Currently, we have 6 volunteers, but need more.

Discussion about effectiveness of Town Day efforts: concerns raised about the large amount of member's time this way of recruiting new members takes – both in terms of staffing the tables the day of the event and the large amount of phone screening done after the event.

Social:

The April Wine Tasting went very well.

The next club meeting will be the annual picnic, on June 21 (a Friday) 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at the Redmon's house, 11 Saddle Club Road, Lexington.

July 12 -14 will be the Gran Fondo weekend – bike rides, hikes, and an all around good time. Lou and Christie are organizing it. Prospective members can attend and have it count as a visit (provided enough members are there).

Lodge:

The first work weekend was completed and built a new concrete pad for the new oil tanks. The plumber started work today to install the new tanks, and to drain and remove the old tanks. The work should be completed in the next day or two.

The first work weekend was highly effective, because the set of people was exactly the right number for the work that needed to be done. This level of effectiveness is the goal for all the other work weekends – please sign up early for work weekends, so that people are spread out over the set of work weekends rather than a really large group of people signing up for the last work weekend of the year.

Waste Management's truck brought down our power line to the parking lot pole, again – we will be moving the dumpsters to a new location to avoid this problem.

A contractor is lined up to do the major repair work needed on the lodge: rebuild front porch, repair front wall, and new roof. (The new roof will include new plywood over the whole area, water shield will be placed on low angle portions (the parts over the porches) and six feet up the main pitch of the roof.)

Question: Do things in attic (especially the new insulation) need to be covered to be protected from debris from roof work? (Roof replacement can create a real mess in attics.)

A structural engineer will be inspecting the lodge on May 29 and giving us a report of his findings.

Members are allowed to bring guests to the lodge again. (Please be sure to explain the state of the lodge before bringing them. Be aware that less than the full set of rooms are currently available.)

Treasurer:

Budget presented to membership.

Currently, we are expecting an additional payment from Hanover insurance of \$173,000. (We do not yet have the check in hand.)

The budget puts \$20K of the insurance money into the maintenance fund. This money can be used for funding professional inspections, and needed repairs such as a new hood for the stove (which will probably cost between \$8,000 and \$12,000), sprinkler system repairs (likely costs between \$40,000 - \$50,000), fire escapes, and addressing transom issues.

The budget puts \$15K into operating expenses to give us an additional cushion for any future surprises. To cover the normal operating expenses of the lodge and the club, with the projected membership numbers for the coming year, dues need to be raised. The budget raises the dues for the first adult of each member family to \$955 and the second adult dues to \$680. (Please note: none of this increase is due to the large number of repairs needed at the lodge due to the porch collapse. Depending on the repair needs of the lodge, it is entirely possible that a dues increase may be needed next fiscal year.)

Discussion of furnace loan: The loan began in 2010 and is financed through 2025. The current loan balance is \$33,400. Paying the loan off with some of the insurance money would save \$8000 of interest payments over the next 6 years. Some members were concerned that we still don't know the full set of repairs needed (structural inspection yet to be done; electrical inspection probably needed) and it may be possible that this money is needed in the short-term. The membership agreed to not pay off the loan at this point. (This issue could be discussed again at some future meeting when we have a better understanding of the repair needs and our plans to address them.)

The budget was voted on and approved (with above noted modification of not paying off the furnace loan at this time).

Eric Pearlman proposed having a donation line on annual invoices sent out, to encourage people to donate to the club and to make it easy to do so. Dan Connell will add this to this year's invoices. This money will be dedicated to lodge upgrades and improvements

Kevin Baker was elected to be our next treasurer. Dan Connell will continue to be the treasurer through August.

Proposal to raise initiation fee from \$1250 to \$1500. This was voted on and approved by the membership. People would like this money to be dedicated to lodge upgrades and improvements.

By-Law Changes:

1) Residency rules recommended to be removed for "friends and family", meaning people that we know well and believe would be a good fit for the club.

Exact wording in by-law, with new text in blue:

The family must be in residence in Lexington, Burlington, Woburn, Arlington, Waltham, Lincoln, Bedford, Belmont, Winchester, or Concord, Massachusetts. The residence restriction above is not a requirement for maintaining membership and is not a requirement for families in which at least one of the adult(s) was once a member for at least one fiscal year immediately after turning 18 to 24, or for families recommended by a current member and known by that member for at least three years.

Kathleen Kourian pointed out that the residency rules have been loosened in the past, and that it worked well. (The Levin family and several other families were pulled in that way.)

The by-law change was voted on and approved by the membership.

2) Proposal to allow people to buy out of a work weekend for 2019 year only. Initial proposal was for \$200 per adult. The membership wanted \$250 per adult.

Exact wording of by-law, with new text in blue:

All voting members must participate in one work weekend per calendar year as a condition of membership, or in 2019 only, pay \$250 for each adult not participating.

The by-law change was voted on and approved by the membership.

People would like this money to be dedicated to lodge upgrades and improvements.

Peter Hardman wants people doing the buy out option to tell him as soon as possible, so that he can plan accordingly.

Submitted respectfully yours,

Cindy Darcy
Secretary

Communication Report

Due to a shift in membership status of our Communications position on the E-Board, I have been appointed the new Communications person. Thank you so much to Ann Redmon for all the years of gathering reports and publishing the Yodeler every month. As part of the Communications position, the E-Board has also decided to bring the website and social media into the responsibilities of the Communications position. Thank you so much to Mary Lynn for managing and updating the website and creating the FaceBook page. If there are updates to the website (host changes, email addresses or phone numbers, etc.), or missing or broken links, please feel free to let me know.

The reservation form has been recently updated so that it now has our Venmo payment information on it. From this point forward, please download and use this new form, which is downloadable from the website in multiple formats.

The next generation of the lexski.org website will have a marketing presence to attract new members, as well as the functional and informational sections that the members need.

I'm looking forward to bringing us into the 21st century with our use of technology!

Enjoy!
Kristen Butler
Communications
kristenbutler@gmail.com