

The first board meeting of the ADKhighpeaks Foundation was held on April 8, 2008, via Rondee conference call. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM. In attendance were Tim Dubois, Neil Luckhurst, Jack Coleman, Alan Via, and Dick Hihn. Due to technical difficulties, Jack was able to listen but not talk for the first part of the meeting. Alan had to leave the meeting early due to work schedule.

OVERVIEW

Neil outlined the general purpose of the foundation. As a result of the death of his son Dominic and resulting financial donations (c. \$800-900), the idea of a formal foundation surfaced. These funds would cover the foundation application fee to the U.S. government. Neil did not want Dominic's name attached to the foundation, and so the Board of Directors voted to name it the "Adkhighpeaks Foundation". Tim mentioned that the idea of creating a vehicle for the forums to help fund targeted projects had previously surfaced.

Essentially the foundation would engage in fundraising activities and simultaneously target specific projects needed by organizations such as ADK, Adirondack 46ers, and SAR groups. In response to Dick's question about giving to individuals, Tim replied that the targeted parties should be "open ended" and allow for giving to some organizations that may not have a formal structure (SAR, for example). Alan mentioned that his wife had headed a similarly structured foundation, and cautioned about having too high expectations. Alan also mentioned that he could inquire about the possibility of piggy-backing on an ADK helicopter supply drop of materials to sites for considerable financial savings.

FOUNDATION STRUCTURE.

Tim explained that under the 501-3-c regulations, a cadre consisting of a Board of Directors and Officers would have to be created. At least 3 directors are needed for the charter, and we will have 5: Executive Directors Neil Luckhurst and Tim Dubois, and Associate Directors Jack Coleman, Dick Hihn, and Alan Via.

Executive Directors are lifetime positions. Associate Director appointments could be for life or a specific term (a 5-year term was suggested), either appointed or voted (TBA). The Board of Directors may need to act in more than one capacity, and the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Project Chair, Fundraising coordinator, and Membership Chair were mentioned as possibilities. Officers would handle the "day to day nuts and bolts" work of the foundation. The Foundation will be a "membership organization" with paying members who would receive voting privileges. The exact amount of dues, as well as other benefits, is yet to be determined. Tim informed us that the Foundation will need to have a set of by-laws and conflict of interest statements.

(Alan Via leaves the meeting)

Tim noted that corporate sponsorship could be an excellent source of funding with a "good sell". He also referenced the successful fundraising on the Views From The Top website. Dick mentioned that the Adirondack 46ers regularly fund a number of projects each year (see the minutes on their organization's website).

WEBSITE.

Tim mentioned that there is a new domain pointer to one folder for the ADKhighpeaks Foundation (adkhighpeaks.org). He decided to use the forum style of the original Adkhighpeaks.com, and will update it. He welcomed suggestions, and said the site should be complete before we go public. Dick brought up the subject of whether a legal disclaimer is needed. Tim said it could be removed. However, Neil cautioned that a release would be necessary for any fundraising ventures that involve outdoor activity. Tim said there is a P. O. Box in the address, though the majority of activity will likely be handled via the internet.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS.

In addition to voting privileges, other benefits were mentioned:

patches, beer steins, caps, shirts (possibly numbered "limited editions" of some of these). A membership card is under production.

(Jack now able to speak on conference call)

Tim brought up the importance of volunteer contributions, and cited the Sentinel Range Project as an example. Neil pointed out that the memberships of ADKforum and ADKhighpeaks each have a different focus on the Adirondacks, the former with interests that are not specific to one region of the park, and include a large number of hunters, paddlers, and photographers as well as hikers, and the latter largely with an interest in the High Peaks area. Tim noted that the Foundation message must transcend hiking and include all constituents. All were in agreement. Some specific names to contact were discussed.

"KICKOFF" FUNDRAISING PROJECT

Tim said it is important to steer the membership toward the ideas and goals of the Foundation for a "kickoff" fundraising project, and the need to start slow, perhaps "buy a mountain for \$46 and climb it" but with the emphasis on an enjoyable activity rather than the financial aspect. The funding for the event will have to be approved as tax deductible before it is announced. Jack suggested that the revenue stream would consist of a combination of membership, events, and advertising (both outside and forum banner advertising), and that care should be taken to keep the fundraising and regular forum activities separate. Tim suggested that membership may be only a small portion of revenue, especially with the possibility of corporate contribution, though such contributions may encourage more individual memberships. Neil raised the concern that the name "Highpeaks" may be misleading as to the Foundation's activities, but Tim thought the majority of contributing members would understand the scope of the organization.

TO-DO:

Tim: will work on website and continue working with lawyer.

Neil: work on reorganization of threads on ADKforum, and will contact some key members of that forum for project ideas.

Dick: agrees to serve as secretary; will contact Adirondack 46ers for possible projects and cost estimates.

Jack: will work on a fundraising brochure and accounting procedures.

Alan: will reach out to ADK (via Neil Woodworth) for input/ideas.

Today's meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 AM. An exact date for the next meeting was not set, but would occur in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Hihn
Recording Secretary
May 27, 2008