

SC 56 Committee Meeting – 3.4.21

Attendance: Gerry Katz, Sue Kriegsman, Hitesh Trivedi, Robin Bonner, Susan Stewart, Britt Rideout, Larry Parnell, Paul Johnson, Edward Bartholomew, Colin Zick, Gail McCullagh, John Green, Michael Payne, Michael Chiu, Michelle Holmes, David English, Neil McCullagh

1. **Spring Activities:** Idea: share history of troop, including trips to Florida, Switzerland, etc. March 14 - 12 :30pm skating; March 22 – canoe, fire, cooking at NEBC; April 11 – Kayaking Allston/Brighton 2:30pm; March 16 - Danehy Park – Social distance games 6pm; Lizbeth will email out dates and activities

Reminder for all – including adults - please be masked at all times.

2. 2021 MHA & summer camp

a. **2021 MHA:** Mike Ravicz & Gerry Katz:

- i. Schedule for Work-up trips: Weekend in June, can't do the quarantining required; two day trips on river, but Tully Lake could be possible with everyone in single tent; but how to handle meals? Bagged dinner; enough stoves for youth to cook for themselves! Will it be a hardship for any family to transport their youth? Train to Wachusett station; or David could check into school bus for MHA – each youth separate seat, sit diagonally; Shakedown trip just for MHA? Backyard camping? Day canoe trip with Zoom camping at night?
- ii. Swim Tests – MHA swim test vs. typical BSA test? Swim test administered at MHA. NEBC pool open? Low-risk COVID activity? Walden Pond can also be site for outdoor swim test. Boys & Girls Club in Watertown; MDC pools. Swim test before canoe trip test.
- iii. COVID Testing/quarantine requirements – state legal requirements; do we do more? ME requires negative COVID test 36-72 hours before arriving in ME, with social isolation during those days; isolate in ME for 10 days; Michelle: CDC requirement post-COVID exposure = isolating 7 days, testing negative on 5th day – suggest creating bubble with 5 days isolation – whole family isolated from others; youth may have to isolate from parents – does this mean wearing a mask inside house, staying in different part of house – no indoor contact < 6 ft, unmasked, >10 minutes; even if adults are vaccinated; vaccines only 60% effective with variants; can't really act differently than we have been; there is window when test negative but still infectious; upon return, isolate until negative test, with some additional days of isolation; weekend trip in June – no way to quarantine, with kids still in school; parents drive youth 1.5 hr trip; ride masked in car with windows open; fewer places doing tests – tests sometimes takes longer to get results – Cambridge has walk-in testing with results within 12-15 hours; need written guideline describing isolation – Michelle can write; Gerry & Mike will check in with MHA for their protocols

- iv. Wilderness First Aid & Scoutmaster training – first priority; Introduction to Outdoor Leadership Skills (IOLS) – one day; Wilderness First Aid will pair Scouts up for practical/hands-on component; outdoors – same partner, could be parent/child pair, siblings; SOLO course close enough so Scouts can sleep at home; could be paired with same Scout who will be their canoe partner
 - v. Tenting/trip precautions: tenting alone; permanent canoeing partners; group becomes pod; will have to revisit this in summer; ability to isolate before trip is a privilege – not everyone can do it; hallmark of Troop 56 has been addressing equity – consider who has least resources, who has highest hurdles to jump in order to be part of team; teaching kids how to be safe in this situation; if there is a youth who cannot isolate at home, possibly stay with another family in Troop?
 - vi. Payment Schedule – also priority
 - vii. Transportation
 - viii. Gear
 - ix. SC56 clothing order – takes 2 months
- b. **Summer Camp** – uncertain; decision must come from NH by April 1 or year will be cancelled; Gerry spoke with Council; Rhode Island Yawgoog camp may be an option for individual Scouts, provisional camping – Jim says camp is well-organized; Lizbeth – girls separated from boys; Wah-tut-ca – limited to 50% capacity; still awaiting NH & MA regulations
 - c. Adult training requirements– our unit exceeds BSA requirements for wilderness first aid, weather training, etc. for adults; any adult leading high adventure must do trainings online for water safety, etc. every two years. Both leaders Scoutmaster trained for back country trip (backpacking, canoeing, snowshoeing to hut, etc.) & wilderness first aid; any adult leader on back country trip/high adventure does weather training; half of our trips on regular year are back country; if trip lasts 72 hours or more need special section of medical form; Intro to Outdoor Leadership skills – there is a checklist of outdoor skills that can substitute for class; Robin will create reference document of trainings required for adult leaders. On website: trip planning outline – may include the training requirements
- 3. **2022 Philmont** – have date for 2022, rolled over money
 - 4. **Food Bank update and other upcoming Service Projects:** Troop has completed their 4 month commitment to food pantry; church asking if Scouts can help with moving boxes as church moves to new building; Gerry can reach out for more Magazine Beach clean-up; Gail – Fresh Pond needs clean-up
 - 5. **Recruitment**
 - a. Pack 56 Arrow of Light crossover – Zoom? In person at park? A bridge – on golf course, at Fresh Pond; usually in May or June – last court of honor for year; not sure number crossing over; youth can cross over at any point if they have earned Arrow of Light – to avoid summer break, get working on first ranks to meet BSA goal of one year

- b. Other: Flyer was approved by public schools and went out today! Find-It Cambridge will add us. Susan will send to Kathy to post to troop website – for public viewing

6. Order of the Arrow

- a. Status of elected Ordeal candidates – 3 ordeals scheduled in NH, May- October, in-person; will later be better for COVID reasons? Not technically a troop activity – youth can go individually, but might be better to go as a group
- b. 2021 election? Apply to youth or adults who have reached first class this past year; or those who have 15 Scout related camping nights in last two years – rule for long-term camping relaxed. Camping nights can be virtual – troop could organize backyard camping. Parents contact Jim by email if their Scout has achieved first class in last year.
- c. Adult status

7. Advancement

- a. Next Court of Honor - June
- b. Eagle Boards/Courts of Honor status – Kavita wants to wait for better weather for an outside event, invite family; Liz & Jeffrey – planning a June Eagle CofH before he goes off to college
- c. Opportunities – Derrick: bird study meetings complete; 4 Scouts have done majority of 11 requirements, but have to show evidence of making a bird feeder; Jim will start Citizenship in Nation on Tues 3/16; Colin & Andres willing to help; 7 Scouts interested; Inventing merit badge offered by an MIT person & Jim focusing on patent/intellectual property laws – parents can share their patents

8. Treasurer – nothing to report

- 9. **Other reports** – Michael Payne: uptick in COVID cases in Cambridge now; urges continued vigilance and caution; do not relax requirements for quarantine, etc. Trials of vaccine in ages 12-18 right now – prediction of vaccines for youth by late summer

Dates to know:

April 1 -- Next committee meeting