

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE**  
**MAINE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION**  
**CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE**  
**AUGUST 8, 2018**

A meeting of the Cross Country Committee was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the MPA office.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Blair Marelli and Mark White (online).

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Rick Hogan (Chair).

**LIAISONS PRESENT:** Jorma Kurry and Glendon Rand.

**MEET DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Mike Griffin and Dave Jeffrey.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Bisson.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes were read and reviewed. On a MOTION by Marelli/White, the minutes of November 14, 2017 were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Mike Bisson shared the following correspondence with the committee:

- A number of emails from Leah Knightly, a Bangor High School cross country parent concerned about the safety of the Troy Howard Middle School course. She communicated with Chair Rick Hogan, Donn Friedman from the New England Council, Glendon Rand from Brewer High School and the Director of the Festival of Champions, and school officials from Belfast Area High School, including Athletic Administrator Terry Kenniston.
- An email from Jorma Kurry sharing with the committee that some coaches would like States to return to UMA.
- An email from Peter Bingham at the Town of Cumberland clarifying bills to be paid to the town for hosting the 2017 championships.
- An email with Mike Griffin regarding a course that LL Bean has built at Maine Coast Waldorf School.
- The Annual Committee Report done by Chair Rick Hogan and presented to the MPA membership at the spring conference.
- An email from retired committee member Ron Ericson that he will not continue on the committee as a retiree.
- An email request to start his first meet of the season on opening day of fall sports at 1:00, as he has a home football game that night. Permission was granted.
- A series of emails from Travis Dow at Lost Valley in Auburn expressing interest in hosting meets at their facility. Mike Bisson made a sight visit.
- An email from Ryan LaRoche at Leavitt Area High School asking about the ability for a student in a wheel chair to compete in cross country.

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- An email from John Montgomery at Schenck High School regarding adding cross country as a school activity and that they will open it up to students from Stearns High School as a cooperative team. The cooperative application followed after the Board approval at both schools.
- An email from Tim Watt at Fort Fairfield High School asking about adding cross country.
- An email from Sarah Stackhouse at Maine School of Science and Math asking if they can participate in a league meet on August 28, 2018, as they don't have a harvest break. The request was approved.
- A series of emails from Cindy Rossi from Jonesport-Beals High School with questions about aiding a sight impaired cross country runner.

**2018 REGIONAL/STATE MEET SITES:**

Northern Regional Championships – Troy Howard Middle School, Belfast – October 20  
Southern Regional Championships – Twin Brook, Cumberland – October 20  
State Championships – Troy Howard Middle School, Belfast – October 27

**FUTURE SITES:** Mike Bisson reported that he has visited a couple of sites since the end of last season, as we explore alternatives to Twin Brook and Troy Howard Middle School.

Lost Valley in Auburn – Lost Valley is interested in expanding their offerings to become a more year-round facility. They are potentially willing to host a large cross-country event, starting in front of the base lodge, running up the hill to the right of the lodge, running across the top of the hill, and finishing in front of the lodge. They have a nice base lodge for registration and awards. The concern is the size of the start area.

LL Bean/MCWS – Mike Bisson met with Peter Yeo from LL Bean, who was interested in a potential partnership/sponsorship of MPA cross country or Nordic skiing. They have developed a course behind Maine Coast Waldorf School. The suggestion to LL Bean is to host a large festival or invitational and see how that works prior to hosting a state level competition.

University of Maine at Augusta – Jorma Kurry had shared that some coaches would like the State Championships to return to the UMA course. The committee discussed this possibility and will follow up at the November meeting. A concern is the distance to the indoor facility and a muddy course in wet seasons. Strengths are parking and a “centralized” location.

**COOPERATIVE TEAM APPROVAL:**

- On a MOTION by Marelli/White, the Cooperative Team Application for Schenck/Stearns boys was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
- On a MOTION by Marelli/White, the Cooperative Team Application for Schenck/Stearns girls was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.
- On a MOTION by Marelli/White, the Cooperative Team Application for Wiscasset/Boothbay boys was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

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- On a MOTION by Marelli/White, the Cooperative Team Application for Wiscasset/Boothbay girls was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

**REVIEW OF BULLETIN:** The bulletin was updated with new times for Twin Brook and adjustments made to the classification page for new cooperative teams.

**SITE PACKET:** The site packet was updated with new times for Twin Brook and contact information for the committee, liaisons, and meet directors.

**CLASSIFICATION:** The committee was given the current cross-country classification with the April 1, 2018 official school count inserted to begin the discussion of classification. The committee will make a recommendation to the classification committee at the November 13, 2018 meeting.

**OTHER:** None.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the MPA office.

**ADJOURNMENT:** On a MOTION by Marelli/White, the meeting was UNANIMOUSLY adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Bisson  
Assistant Executive Director

/tjm  
8/9/18

wddata\xcountry\2018\minutes 8-8-18