

Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee

Minutes of Meeting - January 29, 2007

Present: Rob Robertson, Pat Fletcher, Pat Lukas, Donna Walters, Bob Napolitano, Jon Hanauer, Jim VanNatta, Jim Pelletier, Ian Beatty, Connie Peterson, Deb Levine, Kelly Druzisky, Dave Koerber, and Pat Stevenson

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 P.M.

Minutes of the December 18, 2006 meeting were not available for review. Stevenson will try and have them available for the next meeting to be held on February 26, 2007.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Druzisky

Druzisky submitted the treasurer's report for January through December, 2006. Expenses for website changes and matching donations to Noble View were discussed. Druzisky agreed to get a \$50 gift certificate to be given to Ken Greason for his work on behalf of the AMC Berkshire Chapter. She will send it to Hanauer who will forward it to Greason with a card of thanks.

Committee Reports:

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier

Pelletier reported on the annual maintainer get together held at Greylock. A five year plan was submitted to the ATC. He further reported that they are working with the Trustees of Reservations to develop connecting trails near Tyringham Cobble and they are putting together a project schedule for 2007.

Canoe/Kayak: Connie Peterson

Peterson stated there was not much to report except that they are currently planning trips for 2007.

Conservation: Pat Lukas

Lukas reported on what she learned at the Annual AMC meeting she attended with other Berkshire Chapter members. She felt there was potential for some exciting guest speakers who could do presentations on the Gore film "Inconvenient Truth" and she also mentioned the name of Georgia Murray who is monitoring flowers, fall foliage, and air quality as another potential guest speaker. June and September, 2007 are the months scheduled for river cleanups. She further reported that there is a proposal by Mass Wildlife who is seeking comments on the forest management plan.

Membership and Entertainment: Deb Levine

Levine reported that the social in Greenfield was a success and that they plan to continue these through 2007. She and Furtek plan to have monthly potlucks and are looking for venues. These potlucks are designed to socialize and educate and she and Furtek are working on a list of interesting speakers for these events. She further reported that the RV show has lots of volunteers and encouraged volunteers to get receipts for any parking fees they may incur. If any committee members have display materials they should get them to Levine. The New Member Potluck is scheduled for Saturday, March 31, 2007 and all is in place for that event.

Mountaineering: Jim VanNatta

VanNatta reported that they are currently planning sessions for spring and summer. He further reported that they are planning beginner and intermediate classes and trips and would like these in the Berkshire Exchange.

Noble View: Rob Robertson

Robertson reported on the Martin Luther King weekend held at Noble View. The Noble View Committee is presently promoting Noble View as a destination point. Ground is being broken for a bathhouse for the spring and as monies become available for this project he hopes that there will be forward movement on more funding...perhaps from grants. The question of a conservation easement is still up in the air but it is hoped Springfield will smile upon that.

Outings: Dave Koerber and Bob Napolitano

There was much discussion about scheduling conflicts among the various committees that are doing trail work at various locations. Hopefully, these conflicts will be resolved in the future.

Trails: Pat Fletcher

Fletcher reported that trail maintenance was scheduled on the M - M for April 21 and May 12, 2007. Also, May 19, they plan to open Upper Goose Pond and asked that there be no conflict with AT Committee work. Fletcher also reported that the Cohos Trail Committee which is eight years old is disbanding. The Cohos Trail is 160 miles long and extends from the southern end of Crawford Notch to Canada. The AMC was asked if it wanted to take over the Cohos Trail project but declined as it has enough on its plate. Fletcher further reported on the Diversity Committee meeting which he attended at the Annual Meeting. Fletcher has requested a \$5,000 grant through Heather Clish.

Training and Education: Donna Walters

Walters reported that she had one person respond to her request for help with the Hike from Hell mentoring series. Bill Babcock, former Chair of Outdoor Education Programs at Alaska University, has offered to help. Walters further reported that the new clubwide outdoor leadership requirements and guidelines have been revised and go into effect January 1, 2007.

Website: Ian Beatty

Beatty reported that we have a problem with our mailing lists. Comcast and other server providers maintain black lists of sites that send out spam. Our hosting provider frequently ends up on those blacklists so there are times when email we send out to our lists do not get to everyone.

New Business:

Robertson offered to contact new members and ask about their interests and direct them to appropriate people on the Executive Committee so they can be invited on outings.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 26, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary