

Berkshire Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Executive Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes, January 19, 2005

Present: Rob Robertson, Gary Forish, Mary Norton, Kelly Druzisky, Pat Fletcher, Connie Peterson, Cosmo Catalano, Tom Osley, Erica Gees (guest), Rebecca Rackmill, Jim VanNatta, Chris Ryan, Dave Koerber and Jon Hanauer.

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. at the Florence Savings Bank, Russell Street, Hadley.

Minutes from the November, 2004 meeting were voted on and accepted

Treasurer's report – Kelly Druzisky.

She said she has deposited money, has the treasurer's file and is reviewing it, and has written a few checks. Note – there was also a motion to give Jon Hanauer the money for the computer (\$1,724) and it was passed.

Committee Reports.

Cosmo Catalano – Appalachian Trail

Cosmo said that on 1/29/05 there would be the 4th annual maintainer meeting, and that it is the beginning of the work project year. Upper Goose Pond cabin and two shelters have work that needs to be done. Ted Webber has resigned, but is staying on to ease the transition. Regarding the AMC staff position of regional trails coordinator, Cosmo said the candidates will be interviewed as the next step in the process.

Jon Hanauer – Berkshire Exchange

The Berkshire Exchange newsletter is being printed at a different place and looks much better than the old version and it is also cheaper. He will be leaving the newsletters at various public libraries. A new computer will be purchased with money from the SDA (\$1,200 grant matched by \$500 from our chapter funds). The cost of the computer is \$1,474 with an additional cost of \$99.99 for Windows. February 15, 2005 is the deadline for the spring issue.

Connie Peterson – Canoe & Kayak

Connie said there was good news and bad news. The good news was that there was the annual river picking meeting in December. The bad news is that there will be no rolling sessions this year as the Y in Northampton will no longer rent to non-Y organizations.

Tom Osley – Membership

Tom reported that he was up to date with new member packages. Rob said that there is a new welcome letter and a new member information request.

JimVan Natta – Mountaineering

Jim said things were “pretty quiet.” There has been the usual Wednesday night climbing in the gym, and there was a planning meeting last week. Events are scheduled through part of the summer at this point.

Gary Forish – Noble View

Gary said he is still waiting for the letter regarding the \$150,000 that was approved for the grant. He should have it in a week or so. Trails workshops with staff will be held 4/23 and 4/24, 2005. There are two dates for Solo training, one in the spring and the other in the fall. AMC Outdoors will do a spread on Noble View in the near future. He also said the carpenters union is working twice a week, and he is still working with the town of Russell on the sprinkler waiver.

Dave Koerber – Outings Co-chair

Dave said having a current leaders list is difficult. He has used the list of leaders from last year as a base but some are no longer members. He is trying to recruit more leaders. He said he is still working on April, but that May is all set. He is also soliciting input, and looking for monthly coordinators. A thank you and welcome letter is being sent to new leaders, along with a waiver form, and a survey form. He is including a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and will try this for six months.

Dave will provide an email report to Rob regarding the reasons people have given him as to why they don't want to join AMC or rejoin.

Pat Fletcher – Trails

Pat said the trail busters dinner had to be cancelled as not enough people signed up and the church needs a commitment of 40 or more. He will still be leading the noon hike, however, with a social afterwards if people want it.

January 5 was the trail planning meeting. One project is building the shelter on the Leverett property. And they also plan to rehab the W. Springfield shelter on the YMCA property. He said three major trail relocations are done.

The end to end series was not finished. Doing the last section was cancelled due to ice, but it will be done in April.

Kelly Druzisky – Young Members

Kelly said things have been quiet, and that several events had to be cancelled due to bad weather. She wanted to know if the Membership In a Bottle could have a lower price for young members. She also said that she gets extra AMC Outdoors magazines from Boston and has been placing them at local stores and other places. Rob said that he has submitted Gary Forish's name to Joy Street for the Volunteer Leader Appreciation Award.

Rob Robertson – Chair

New business: The annual budget for 2005 was passed out, suggestions and comments were made (an increase to \$300 for Outings). Motion to accept the budget was voted on and passed.

Retreat results: Rob discussed the idea of calling all new members to welcome them to AMC and tell them a bit about who we are and what we do. He may ask everyone on the Executive Committee call one

new member a week, if he can get someone to put together a basic bulleted list of what we should tell the new members in this phone call. Erica said she will assist Rob with this project.

Public Relations Committee –

Rebecca Rackmill has likely signed on to handle publicity. She has already been contacting local publications about advertising and has spoken with the editor of the Advocate. She will be developing a list of print and internet resources. Gary said he will arrange to have Tamis talk with Rebecca to get a list of resources. Rob and Rebecca will draft a job description for review by the Executive Committee. Committee chairs will send a sentence or two about their committees to Rebecca at amcpublicity@yahoo.com.

Annual meeting is February 5, 2005 in Waltham.

Rob discussed future Executive Committee meeting days. We scheduled February 16, the third Wednesday of the month, and March 21, the third Monday of the month.

Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour – February 18 & 19, in Lenox – Cosmo will handle getting a table and Rob and Connie will assist.

A motion was made to charge Young Members \$25 instead of \$50, for Membership In a Bottle, for the first time only and not for membership renewals. Motion was voted on and passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Norton
Secretary
AMC Berkshire Chapter