

**Berkshire Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club
Executive Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes, February 16, 2005**

Present: Rob Robertson, Gary Forish, Mary Norton, Pat Fletcher, Cosmo Catalano, Tom Osley, Rebecca Rackmill, Alice Hodgdon, Dave Koerber and Bob Napolitano. Also attending was Liz Gordon, new member.

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Florence Savings Bank, Russell Street, Hadley.

Minutes from the January, 2005 meeting were voted on, and with one correction, were accepted.

There was no treasurer's report due to the absence of Kelly Druzisky.

Committee Reports.

Ian Beatty - Webmaster

Ian said that the whole website and Joy Street situation was kind of messy at the moment, and that a number of trips weren't listed. He also reported that a computer has been donated for Ken Greason's use. He spoke on behalf of Connie Peterson, Canoe & Kayak Committee, and said that they will be buying a new kayak, and that things were generally moving along well.

Rob Robertson for Cinda Jones, Conservation Committee

Rob reported that Cinda wants to step down, but she will continue with the bandana map project.

Tom Olsey – Membership

Tom said that he has been receiving new member information sheets, and that he continues to get a lot of them. He thought we should get in touch with these people. He will scan the sheets and email them to appropriate committee chairs, based on the interests listed on the information sheets. Then the chairs of the committees can get in touch with the new members directly.

Dave Koerber and Bob Napolitano – Outings

More monthly coordinators are still needed, and there is a meeting next Wednesday of the coordinators. They said that names of three coordinators are in the Berkshire Exchange, and with their permission, they may be placed on the web site. The job of the coordinators is to fill the month with activities, and each of them has a list of known leaders and a list of activities that occurred last year. They said they want to have the 2006 Committee in place by September.

Alice Hodgdon - Mountaineering

Alice said she didn't have much to report. Cosmo mentioned that there was a gathering of AT maintainers last month, and about 40 people attended.

Pat Fletcher - Trails

Pat said that the Trailbusters hike was cancelled due to bad weather. Pat had already cancelled the dinner due to an apparent lack of interest. They may combine with another group next year in order to make it more easily possible to use the church for the dinner. He also said that AmeriCorps will be building a shelter on the M-M trail on the Mosher property. The MM guide book is at the press now. Pat said he has been working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to produce a new map for use on the MM Trail. He reported that hopefully on May 14, 2005, there will be a service day at Wendell State Forest. He is looking for a replacement as chair of the committee and said that the person does not have to be experienced, but just needs to really enjoy working on trails.

Gary Forish – Noble View

Gary reported that the Boston Chapter has officially given the \$75,000 grant, and that there will be a \$75,000 match also. He has not received confirmation of the match, but he has been told it is not a problem. He said solo training and leadership training are both scheduled. AmeriCorps will also be working at Noble View as Gary has applied for 2 weeks of work on the trails and 45 days of additional work.

Rebecca Rackmill – Publicity

She said the Advocate has been contacted, but she hasn't heard back yet. There was a discussion about the use of a permanent ad with rotating small blurbs on specific events. It was mentioned that she would need to ask leaders if it was ok to publish information about their activities.

Rob Robertson – Chair

New business:

1 - Elvery Veal had requested a \$250 scholarship to support his attending a training in March. A motion was made, voted on, and passed, to give Elvery the scholarship money.

2 - Discussion of the Outings Committee Advance Deposit Fund Policy. The proposal was set out by Dave, and he said the purpose was to reduce the financial exposure for trip leaders by their having to fund money up front out of their own pockets. The new title of the policy will be the Advance Deposit Funding Policy. There was a motion to have a \$200 reserve amount set up as well as adopting the new title, and the motion was voted on and passed.

3 - Regarding funding for the SOLO Wilderness First Aid training at Noble View in April, a motion was made for \$80 of the \$140 per person fee to be underwritten by Berkshire Chapter for Berkshire members, and it was voted on and passed.

4 – A motion was made, voted on and passed to underwrite the \$25 per person fee for Leader Training for Berkshire members sponsored by Noble View in May.

5 – Discussion of stock to be used for the Day Hiking Guide. It was decided to go with 5,000, two color, uncoated stock (\$727). Motion was made, voted on and passed.

6 – It was suggested and agreed upon that there be a Membership Committee of about 3 to 6 persons to assist Tom.

7 – Potluck Supper – help is needed for the supper. The choice for speaker will likely be Mark Cashman. Date is 3/19/05 at Edwards Church.

8 – Erica Gees has agreed to serve as Vice Chair of the Executive Committee. A motion nominating Erica was made and seconded, and Erica was elected Vice Chair in absentia.

9 – Conservation Committee - Regarding Cinda Jones' resignation as Chair, Gary noted that we should have her resignation in writing. Liz Gordon expressed interest in working as Chair, and she was nominated and elected.

10 – Chapter Youth programs – no time to discuss – will be taken up at future meeting. Rob asked that Committee Members review the five-page presentation provided with the agenda, noting that the Program Proposal was very detailed.

11 – High Holy Days for outings – discussion – it was agreed that one day a month would be set aside to work on planned trail maintenance and no other hiking activities will be scheduled on that day. Motion was made, voted on and passed.

Old Business

1 – Banff Festival – we will not be tabling

2 – We will not have a classified section on the web site in the near future

3 – Policy for equipment owned by Committees – will be discussed at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Next meeting will be Monday, March 21, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at Florence Savings Bank, Hadley.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Norton

Secretary

AMC Berkshire Chapter