

**Berkshire Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Draft Minutes, March 21, 2005**

**PLEASE NOTE: Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 20, 2005, at 6:30 p.m. at Florence Savings Bank, Hadley.**

Present: Rob Robertson, Mary Norton, Pat Fletcher, Bob Napolitano, Liz Gordon, Deborah Levine, Jim VanNatta, Chris Mangano and Erica Gees.

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

Minutes from the February, 2005 meeting were voted on, and with two corrections, were accepted.

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

**Committee Reports.**

**Connie Peterson – Canoe and Kayak**

Connie reported that the new kayak has been purchased. She said that the paddling season is about to start, and that it is later than usual due to the weather.

**Bob Napolitano – Outings**

Bob said he has all the monthly coordinators still needed except for the month of December.

Rob asked that Bob and Dave set dates for High Holy Days (trail maintenance) for the rest of the year (or season) so that the coordinators don't permit other trips to be listed on those dates.

**Pat Fletcher - Trails**

Pat said that things are moving forward and that a contract has been signed with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Pat hopes to have the new maps ready for sale soon, and also the guide book. Starting in the middle of May, Americorps will be coming for 9 days to work on the Mosher property in Leverett.

**Liz Gordon – Conservation**

Liz said she was in the process of working to identify major long-term priorities for the committee, which will likely include partnering with organizations such as FLOW for dam removal, and potentially partnering with the Nature Conservancy on the issue of

forest reserves (the committee's role/stance on the latter has yet to be determined). She reported that the committee put in a Special Funds Project proposal, jointly with the AT committee, for bog bridging material. She also said that short-term goals include getting a conservation section to the AMC-Berkshire website, encouraging new and existing members to join CAN (Conservation Action Network), and distributing VizVol (Visibility Volunteer) kits to outings leaders to try to get air quality data for Western Massachusetts.

### **Chris Mangano and Deborah Levine- Membership**

They plan to develop new methods of attracting new members and retaining current members. Chris suggested listing some of the events in the Springfield newspaper. She also said she will distribute our brochures to various stores. There was a discussion of the idea of having hikes that start at noon and only last a couple of hours, followed by some sort of social hour. Pat Fletcher said we should have a booth at the Camping Show as a way to get new members, as it has been successful in the past.

### **Jim VanNatta - Mountaineering**

Jim said that climbing events are scheduled through June and that there will be a beginners class in April, the annual rock climbing introductory class.

### **Erica Gees – Vice Chair**

Erica led a discussion of the idea of creating a color postcard to send out to new members that would contain contact information for all the committees and some photos of the activities we offer.

### **Cosmo Catalano – AT**

(AT report sent in by email – Cosmo was unable to attend.)

Cosmo said the seasonal work schedule has been produced and it will be sent to Ian soon for posting on the web. He also said they are very close to hiring a new AMC Regional Trails Supervisor, and the new person should be in by the end of April. Cosmo also said that he thought the AT contact person should be listed on the AMC Outdoors roster as the AT is what many people want to know about.

### **Rob Robertson – Chair**

New Business:

In-Chapter leader training

Rob said that the New Hampshire Chapter has offered to help us to develop in-Chapter leader training resources, so that we don't have to rely on AMC staff and so we can have leader training more frequently, as needed. There was consensus that being able to train our own leaders is desirable, and discussion as to whether one- or two-day sessions

would be better. Rob will work the NH Chapter to bring a “train the trainers” training to the Chapter.

#### Approved leader list to Joy Street

Rob advised that AMC staff confirmed that we must submit our list of approved leaders to Joy Street on an annual basis, but they seem to be a little undecided as to when they want it.

#### “Problem” leaders

Aaron Gorban, Leadership Training and Risk Management Manager, circulated an email asking for info on our past practices on effectively dealing with “problem” leaders.

There was some discussion of one past situation.

#### AMC Outdoors chapter rosters

There was a discussion of the rosters that appear in AMC Outdoors magazine and that Joy Street wants to make them smaller, in an attempt to cut printing costs, as they are trying to eliminate about 8 pages from the magazine. Rob mentioned that we could rotate the roster listings, or have the same repeating listings. He said we should see what the next issue looks like and then possibly discuss the matter again. There was consensus that the AT contact should be listed in every issue.

#### Underwriting AMC memberships for those in financial need

On the issue of partial scholarships for members who cannot afford the full membership fee, it was agreed that the Chair has discretion to handle such requests.

#### AMC Stewardship Society

There was discussion of tracking leader and other volunteer hours. Rob asked Committee Chairs to provide a list of names of people who are contributing time, so that we can submit nominations for awards in December, 2005. Awards are presented at the Annual Meeting in February.

#### Old Business:

Rob repeated his request for Committees’ 2004 financial reports to be provided to Executive Committee. Canoe and Kayak and Mountaineering Committees have provided this info. Still awaiting financial reports from the Appalachian Trail, Conservation, Membership, Noble View, Outings, Programs & Special Events, Trails, Website, and Young Members Committees.

#### Chapter Youth Programs

There appears to be no interest in investing the energy in developing youth programs at this time.

#### Committee-owned equipment

Discussion of policy for equipment owned by the committees. Consensus is that there is no need to establish a policy for committee-owned equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Norton  
Secretary  
AMC Berkshire Chapter