Berkshire Chapter - Appalachian Mountain Club
Executive Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes, April 20, 2005

PLEASE NOTE: Next meeting - location same, Florence Savings Bank, Hadley, but date uncertain. Rob Robertson will send out an email with the meeting date.

Present: Erica Gees, Mary Norton, Pat Fletcher, Dave Koerber, Liz Gordon, Deborah Levine, Kelly Druzisky, Alice Hodgdon, Steve Beauregard, Ian Beatty and Gary Forish.

Julie Wormser, Director of Policy, from the Joy Street office, also attended the meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Erica Gees, who chaired the meeting as Rob Robertson was unable to attend.

Minutes from the March, 2005 meeting were voted on and were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Druzisky.

Kelly said things are "looking fine". She reported that there was an extra dues allocation received in the past week, of $3,000. She also said that she is now receiving bank statements as she should be. She will prepare quarterly reports for the committees as this would be very helpful to them.

Committee Reports.

Cosmo Catalano – Appalachian Trail

Cosmo said that the projects for the season have begun and that he received an email from Jon Hanauer saying the first newsletter on the new computer has been produced.

Connie Peterson – Canoe & Kayak

The new steep creeking boat has been purchased.

Ian Betty – Web Master

Ian said that he and Ken Greason have spoken about glitches in the Joy Street data base system that lists the trips. He also said the computer that was dontated from U. Mass. doesn't work any better than the one that Ken had. Ian requested that people please not enter trip information right before the deadline, as Ken needs some time to process it. He explained that it is best if information from committees such as Outings and Young Members go to Ken first, so he can clean it up, and then he forwards it on to Ian. He said we should have a master listing, as, for example, the Executive Committee meetings are not listed. For last minute trips, email can be used. The leader can email the information to Bob Napolitano, he ok's it, and then would send it out on the list serve.

Deborah Levine - Membership

Deborah said that Tom Osley will still send out letters but will no longer be able to attend meetings. Chris Mangano and Deborah met and discussed various ideas. One was to have one hike per month specially designated for new members, although anyone could join in. Regarding publicity, she wants to put membership information in the Springfield newspaper about National Trails Day. She said we need more visibility. There has been an invitation to a Green Fest in Chicopee and she plans to attend and distribute information on who we are, what we do, etc. Erica mentioned that she still needs the photos she requested for the postcards about New Member Hikes. Regarding Trails Day, she is going to send out press releases to various local and regional newspapers. We discussed calling up new members. It seems that the surveys they do should be returned to Tom Osley, but the committee chairs are not getting them. So the new members need to be emailed or called about the survey. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. Pat Fletcher said he thinks it's a good idea to have a table at the camping show and said it has worked well before. He also mentioned the idea of doing a raffle for one free membership.

Liz Gordon - Conservation

Liz said she has applied for a special project funding, and that it has been approved. This will be for materials for the bog bridge project. She also reported that she is working on the conservation part of the web site.

Alice Hodgdon - Mountaineering

She said there were 6 or 8 participants in the beginner's class last weekend. She reported that they are starting to climb outside. There will be an intermediate rock climbing class in early June.

Gary Forish – Noble View

Gary said they will be partnering with the City of Springfield and the Winding River Land Trust. He also said that Noble View will be paying back the $30,000 loan to the chapter. He reported that they are still negotiating with the state fire marshal regarding the sprinkler system. He was told that a 1,000 gallon water tank needs to be put in, but he is trying to get a waiver to allow a smaller tank. He said that costs would increase if they wait any longer, so they will go ahead in meeting the state code requirements. After this, they can start building up there again. There will be two workshops this coming weekend. One is in Solo Wilderness First Aid training, and the other is a trails workshop. Sunday, 45 people from Americorps will be showing up. Gary also said there will be an invasive species workshop this coming Saturday and that it is a State of Mass. certified workshop, in Turners Falls.

Outings – Dave Koerber

Dave said there is a May 1 deadline for the July/August issue. He said that the 3rd Saturdays will be set aside for trail maintenance. He reported that he is trying to establish a working relationship between the Maintaining Committee and the Outings Committee, encouraging those that use the trails to help maintain them – to give back to the trails. A list-serv will be established for Outings. The list-serv will become another tool to supplement the AMC Outdoors and the BC website to list outings. Only those who subscribe will be mailed list-serv listings. The list-serv will go out to the leaders list first, get published on the website next and then written up in the Berkshire Exchange. Dave said the leaders list is still a work in progress and is getting better. Outings will conduct a survey to determine who on the list wants to remain active and what kinds of activities they prefer to lead.

Pat Fletcher – Trails

Pat said the April 23 hike will be the final one of the series. May 14 will be a service day in Wendell State Forest. Starting on May 16, there will be 9 days of Americorps workers, helping at the shelter in Leverett and with a relocation in the same area. Pat said he is looking for the shelter location.

Young Members – Steve Beauregard

Steve said the Thursday night hikes have started and they have gotten anywhere from 4 to 14 people, and that they are children friendly hikes. June 25 is the date for the summer social, and July 16 is the date for the Mt. Mooselock hike.

Julie Wormser, the AMC Joy Street Director of Policy then talked about the nature conservancy. She said that the state has put on pressure to increase logging, but she thinks it should be done right, with a certification process. She said there are large blocks of land that it is important to protect and that "special areas" need protection. She said there are 22 large blocks, and 8 may possibly be set aside for state reserves. She talked about the concept of sustainable foresting. She said the state is having public meetings in June regarding Mt.Greylock and Mt. Washington. The concept of making these areas reserves will be discussed. Julie also said that Joy Street does not have a formal opinion on this subject at this time, but she encouraged all who are interested, to attend the meetings held by the state.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Norton
Secretary
AMC Berkshire Chapter