

**Berkshire Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club
Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes, August 15, 2005**

PLEASE NOTE – Next meeting on Monday, September 19, at 6:30, Florence Savings Bank, Hadley.

Present: Erica Gees, Jim VanNatta, Mary Norton, Deborah Levine, Dave Koerber, Ian Beatty, Kelly Druzisky, and Liz Gordon.

Meeting was called to order at 6:36 by Erica Gees.

Minutes from the July meeting were voted on and accepted.

There was a brief discussion, led by Erica, about the 2006 budget and possibilities for additional AMC funding. She said that Gary Forish told her that he thinks we should try to obtain more money, as we have in previous years. She also talked about the fact that the dollar amount we want for this chapter would be needed for the retreat she is going to in two weeks. Gary had told Erica that \$3,000 was not enough and she should try to get more.

Committee Reports

Ian Beatty – Computer/Website

Ian said there had been problems with event listings and how the listings get where they need to go. Some listings have been missed or dropped. He suggested we have one database and have all information go out from that (sent out by Ken Greason), and that this database would be the Berkshire Chapter's web site. He also recommended that there be one appointed person from each committee putting in information. This way, listings are not limited to two places, which is what Joy Street does, but instead can be on as many places on our web site as the lister wants. Ian said he will talk with each committee and not to change anything yet. He said the text would go into our web site first, then to Ken, then to Joy Street, and made it clear that it gets posted on our own web site. There was a unanimous vote to put this idea into practice.

Ian also said the problem about trips showing up on the wrong day came back, but has now been fixed.

Liz Gordon – Conservation

Liz said she had nothing new to report.

Deborah Levine – Membership

Deborah said they are getting the surveys back and that people are indicating the specific things they are interested in.

Jim VanNatta – Mountaineering

Jim said not much is new. Climbs are going along as per the schedule, and that there are no big issues. Wednesday nights and weekend climbs are going fine. He also said that two people from the beginner class have been retained.

Dave Koerber – Outings

Dave said that there are five activities on the day after AT Day and that he would try to move some of them, thinking they may create a conflict with AT Day. He also said he needs monthly coordinators.

Gary Forish – Noble View (via Erica Gees)

Erica said that there had been a forest fire, that the road has been started and that the sprinkler issue has not been resolved yet.

Kelly Druzisky – Young Members

She said there will be a Lake George camping trip in combination with the Worcester Chapter.

New Business

Note – Cathy Wickens will be stepping down as Leadership Training and Education chair, and Donna Walters will be taking over. Pat Fletcher still needs someone to take his place.

Charlie Camp will resume soon as chair of Canoe and Kayak committee.

There was a discussion of having a Chapter Youth Program Coordinator, dealing with trips that have groups of kids, and there was a vote taken to create this position.

Erica will take the issue of releases needed for minors on trips to the upcoming retreat.

It was mentioned that SDA proposals need to be made for additional funding. If we ask for \$5,000, \$2,000 would go towards trainings for leadership, \$500 towards volunteer recognition, and \$2,500 for trails and AT.

There was a question on why there was a significant increase in the budget amount for the Berkshire Exchange. The question will be passed to Rob, as a phone call to Jon Hanauer did not resolve the problem.

Discussion of the annual meeting – Erica is organizing it, so there was a discussion of what to do and how to get people to attend. Postcards will be sent out to advertise it with quotes from committee members on them, some humorous, some catchy, some informative. The meeting is November 5, 2005, a Saturday.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully,

Mary Norton
Berkshire Chapter Secretary