Berkshire Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club
Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes, September 19, 2005

Present: Rob Robertson, Alice Hodgdon, Deborah Levine, Donna Walters, Bob Napolitano, Pat Fletcher, Ian Beatty, Liz Gordon, Mary Norton, Alicia Wendolowski, and Christine Mangano.

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Rob Robertson.

Minutes from the August meeting were voted on and accepted, with one minor correction.

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

Committee Reports

Alicia Wendolowski – Chapter Youth Program

Alicia said that the programs are new, and that they will be doing a lot with outreach to the Girl Scouts, and boys and girls clubs. Leaders in the program will be required to have appropriate youth program leader training, including such things as CPR, First Aid, and so forth. She said a lot is undecided at this point, as to exactly how the program is going to work and who will be responsible for what. She said we can develop our own chapter program as long as it complies with the AMC guidelines for Chapter Youth Programs.

Pat Fletcher reminded us that he and another person had been trying to work on this concept a few years ago.

Ian Beatty - Website

Ian reported that the chapter retreat that happened two weeks ago and that our website got good press. He said there was a discussion of the trip listing system and that Joy Street will be improving it in the hopes that more chapters will use it.

Liz Gordon - Conservation

Liz reported that the meetings on forest reserves are happening again, and that the next one will be on September 29, in Pittsfield. She said that river clean up is coming up on

October 1, and that they are partnering with the Westfield River Watershed Association to accomplish this. She also asked to have the CAN card included in the new member packet.

Deborah Levine and Christine Mangano - Membership

They will be meeting together soon to discuss ways to develop new ideas for how information will go out in the new member packets. They said the top two reasons that are being given as reasons to join AMC and be a member are 1) love of the outdoors, and 2) to lend financial support.

Alice Hodgdon - Mountaineering

Alice said there is not much that is new – they are climbing as usual and dodging the rain!

Bob Napolitano - Outings

Bob said there are complaints that the hikes are not getting in soon enough to the magazine and that he needs to talk with Ken Greason to see how to fix this. He also talked about his idea of wanting to do a major excursion, such as a trip to the Grand Canyon, and wanted to know if this could be done if it was only Berkshire Chapter members going. In other words, could it be done as a "private trip together". Rob said he will talk to Norm Sims about this and the liability issue.

Pat Fletcher – Trails

Pat said next Saturday there would be a work party, meeting at the North Amherst Post Office as 9:00 a.m. , to do landscaping and other work in Leverett. He said he had 25 U. Mass. grad students at Mt. Tom last Saturday, and they worked on putting in stairs. He also said he had some copies of the new guide book with him. He said that he is working on the New England Trail issue, and working to keep it away from Cowls land and instead on Quabbin land. The trail extends from Long Island Sound to the New Hampshire border and will be eligible for federal money if it achieves Scenic Trail status.

New Business

1 - Donna Walters was voted in unanimously as Chair of the Training and Education Committee. Donna said that she is a relatively new leader herself and that she had

some ideas to present. She would like to see a mentoring program get created, to match new leaders with experienced leaders who would then co-lead several hikes, write up a hike description, etc. She also said she would like to create a Year At A Glance list, in terms of planning and types of training available and when they might be offered, such as water safety training, survival training, winter backpack training, etc. Another idea of Donna's was to have a small gift given in recognition of new leaders and the mentoring leaders. Donna suggested a leader resources site on our web site and Ian said there is a "new leaders kit" posted on the web, but that it could be added to, adding an equipment list by season, leader lists, etc.

2 – Rob requested all Committees' annual reports for inclusion in the Annual Report to be distributed at the Big Berkshire Bash (aka Annual Meeting). These are due October 15, 2005.

3 – Rob discussed the 2006 budget supplemental funding request – said we are asking for $6,600 more

3 – replacement for secretary – Mary Norton will be stepping down after December.

4 – discussion of communications, led by Ian – he felt it would make more sense to unify the role instead of having various persons doing various parts of it, and to develop a communications committee that would deal with the newsletter, website, publicity, Ken as the conduit for trip listings and other information getting to Joy Street. Rob said there is an increasingly active membership committee and he hopes that it grows, and wondered how the membership committee could tie into the communications committee – he said that something needs to happen but that he couldn't visualize it yet – he thinks a clear idea is needed of that it is that we are doing, and the roles of the persons involved need to be clear. Ian said he would write up a formal proposal.

5 – fall gathering is October 14, 15 and 16, in Maine – Rob said it would be very expensive to attend, so he plans to go just for Saturday and not stay overnight – another option might be to have a small group go and share a room – he asked for input by email.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully,

Mary Norton

Berkshire Chapter Secretary