

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

Present: Rob Robertson, Deborah Levine, Donna Walters, Pat Fletcher, Liz Gordon, Mary Norton, Cosmo Catalano, Jim VanNatta, Connie Peterson and Christine Mangano.

Note: next meeting is November 16 (Wednesday) at 6:30 p.m. at Florence Savings Bank in Hadley.

Meeting was called to order at 6:36 by Rob Robertson. Rob started with a reading of the mission of AMC.

Minutes from the September meeting were voted on and accepted.

There was no treasurer's report.

Committee Reports

Cosmo Catalano - AT

Cosmo said the trail was under water. He also said he may change the date of the maintainers winter gathering, as it is on the same weekend as the annual meeting. He reported that there were about 30 people present at the AT Day annual dinner on October 1, 2005.

Ian Beatty – Computer/Website

Ian reported in absentia. He said programming work has been done by the "Computer Committee" to support generating trip lists from the website in a format Ken Greason can work with easily. This is in preparation for having event information flow through the site to him, rather than vice-versa, as it does now. Ian also reported that the committee has continued to advise Joy Street about improvements and repairs to the AMC-wide trip listings database, and that Joy Street seems serious about fixing the system well enough that all chapters will use it.

Liz Gordon - Conservation

Liz reported on the fall gathering, and also mentioned that there was still money available for the special projects fund. She also said that 7 people participated in the Viz Vol hikes. She said that the meetings on forest reserves are done for the year, and that AMC has a place on the website for those who could not attend the meetings to give their opinions.

Deborah Levine and Christine Mangano - Membership

Deborah talked about plans to have quarterly events for new and potential new members. The first event will be a show and tell; what to put in your backpack, to be held on January 12, 2006. She said that work on the new members potluck needs to begin in November. June and September are possible other months for these events. Note that Rob is coordinating the new members weekend at Cardigan Lodge on Memorial Day weekend (5/27 to 5/30, 2006).

Jim VanNatta – Mountaineering

Jim said he appreciated the SDA that was received. The money will be used to replace equipment and also for trainings. He reported that there has not been much climbing due to the inclement weather.

Pat Fletcher – Trails

Pat said there was a good turnout at the awards party last month, and people enjoyed seeing the new shelter. He reported that they got a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation through the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for designing signs for trails. The signs would alert hikers as to when they are entering public or private land, and would notify them of the distance of the trails. Pat said there would be a planning meeting at the Bangs Center on the 11th or the 18th of January. He also said they were not going to do the trailbusters event this year as there was not enough interest. Some discussion of this followed, and Rob said he had tried to find a way to make it happen, saying "it's a nice tradition". He suggested having it as a new member hike, perhaps one long hike and one short one. Deborah commented that the type of new member hikes that she and Chris have in mind are ones aimed more at orientation and information for new members, and that Rob's perspective was a different one.

Donna Walters – Training and Education

Donna said she has been working some with Deborah and Chris, and next weekend she hopes to pick up more information and ideas.

Connie Peterson – Canoe & Kayak

Connie said that Charlie is now back as chair of the committee and things are going along fine. There is one more Farmington weekend coming up and then it will be the end of the paddling season for most people. An SDA was awarded (\$650) for life jackets and training safety.

Note that Donna Walters wanted to know if anyone from this chapter wanted to go to New Jersey for training sessions on learning to be a trainer.

New Business

Erica is still working on organizing the annual meeting, and there was an ad in the Berkshire Exchange about the “Berkshire Bash”.

Draft budget – Rob needs information from the committees on their money needs for next year.

There was a discussion of Ian’s Communication Committee proposal and it was mentioned that one committee member was not satisfied with it. Ian had said that we need to market ourselves and let people know that we are focused on learning outdoor skills, among other things, in order to attract more people. He also felt that we needed a marketing person who know how to do this type of thing. We talked about developing a working group to plan events and to do marketing. It was suggested that this might be a good project for a U. Mass. marketing major, and Donna will contact the School of Management about this. Also, a faculty member or grad student could fill the bill as well.

Chair’s Report

Rob mentioned the Train the Trainers training on 10/28 to 10/31.

He reported that he went to the fall gathering, and mentioned the list of important dates in his report handout. Rob attended the Chapters Committee Meeting. He talked about ideas for a chapter retreat and that the Chapters Committee is looking for ideas. He also mentioned that there had been a discussion of electronic payment options on the website. Rob also attended the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee Meeting. For additional information, please see the Chair’s Report handout for September 19, 2005.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully,

Mary Norton
Berkshire Chapter Secretary