

Appalachian Mountain Club – Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes of Meeting - March 20, 2006

Members present: Rob Robertson, Deb Levine, Cosmo Catalano, Pat Fletcher, Donna Walters, Bob Napolitano, Bess Dillman, Gary Forish, Donna Burdick, Liz Gordon, Stephen Beauregard, Chris Mangano, Connie Peterson, and Pat Stevenson

Robertson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and read the AMC mission statement.

Minutes of the February, 2006 meeting were read and accepted.

New Business

Robertson reported that an invitation had been extended to the Berkshire Chapter to attend the North Quabbin Outdoor Expo planning meeting on March 28, 2006 in Orange, MA. Forish presented a little history on this collaboration, however, no one volunteered to attend this meeting. Robertson agreed to notify the Worcester Chapter that no Executive Committee member volunteered to attend this meeting and that Berkshire Chapter was open to collaborating on this event and, with some advance notice, we would attempt to send a representative to a future meeting.

Levine updated the committee on the new member potluck plans. She asked that executive committee members bring appetizers and to also sit at different tables to be available to meet people and talk about the AMC....specifically the Berkshire Chapter. She also reported that there will be an informal social for new members in Springfield on June 8, 2006. This location is chosen as part of covering the four corners of our territory.

Old Business

Robertson brought up new changes to the Berkshire Chapter Expense Reimbursement Policy that formalize what was discussed at the February meeting. After discussion, a motion was made to accept the new policy with amendments (see attachment A) by Catalano, seconded by Forish and approved unanimously.

Robertson also asked that chapters committee members review and make comments or contributions to the long term planning process.

Committee Reports

Appalachian Trail: Cosmo Catalano

Catalano reported that he was planning to attend a meeting regarding the use of off road vehicles on Department of Conservation and Recreation properties aka DCR properties. He presented a copy of the comments he had drafted to the Mass DCR on this issue. He further reported that the proposed regulations seem to be in our favor as they appear to change the use of motorized vehicles away from trails we use. Lastly, Catalano is putting together a projects list for the season, and it will be posted on the website for volunteers to take note.

Canoe and Kayak: Connie Peterson

Nothing to report but Peterson requested reimbursement for safety gear and solo training.

Conservation: Liz Gordon

Nothing to report.

Membership: Deb Levine

This topic was covered under the discussion relative to the new member potluck dinner.

Noble View: Gary Forish

Forish reported that Noble View will be open on July 1, 2006. He further reported that furniture had been donated from L.L. Bean. Projects under consideration include the purchase of commercial refrigeration and stoves, building a bath house, putting in passive solar heat/cooling system, and training and education center in the barn. Grant monies may be forthcoming from the Worcester Chapter of AMC and/or AMC in Boston for one or some of these projects under consideration. Forish also reported that Americorp is scheduled to use Noble View in May for a training.

Outings Co-chairs: Bob Napolitano

Napolitano reported that Koerber is rotating out of this committee but he is staying on. He is looking for monthly coordinators for November and December. He will also send Robertson a list of outings for March, April, and May.

Public Relations: Bess Dillman

Dillman reported that no one had send any activities to her yet. She will be working with Gary Forish on publicizing Noble View events. It was recommended that the Cardigan and Cape Cod weekend events be publicized.

Trails: Pat Fletcher

Fletcher reported that he was going forward with signage on the M-M trail and was working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Committee on that. However, some property owners have come forward to say they do not want that on their land. He also reported that he will be manning a table at the Westfield River Symposium.

Training and Education: Donna Walters

Walters reported that she had prepared flyers with information about the Cardigan weekend that she will hand out at the new member potluck. She also reminded committee members of the Hike From Hell Series that will begin on April 16, 2006 and asked if anyone might be interested in mentoring. Napolitano recommended that she contact the Tuesday night hikers who are experienced hikers and may be interested in participating as mentors.

Young Members: Stephen Beauregard

Beauregard gave a report on the Northfield Mountain Program that AMC members participated in.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Fletcher to adjourn at 8:25 P.M., seconded by Napolitano.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2006 at 6:30 P.M.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary