

Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee
FINAL REVISED Minutes of Meeting – September 24, 2007

Present: Jon Hanauer, Deb Levine, Kelly Druzisky, Bess Dillman, Ian Beatty, Connie Peterson, Bob Napolitano, Pat Lukas, Jim Pelletier, Cynthia Martin-Thompson, Jim Van Natta, Pat Fletcher, and Pat Stevenson

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. The minutes of August 20, 2007 were presented and read. On a motion by Martin-Thompson, seconded by Levine the minutes were approved unanimously with no revisions.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Druzisky

Druzisky reported income of \$13,000 and expenses of \$10,000. Income is up due to the allocation from Joy Street. Druzisky offered to send out an up-to-date budget to all committees so they can see where they stand financially. She further reported we are due one more allocation from Joy Street and income from MIB's. There is one outstanding expense due in from board member attendance at Fall Gathering. The Vanguard account will be closed and a check will be sent to Kevin Costa, former treasurer for the chapter, as the account is in his name.

Announcements: Jon Hanauer

Hanauer reported that Roger Scholl had been sent a check in the amount of \$3915 to deposit in Porter-Dickinson next month which is the beginning of a quarter.

New Business:

- 1. AMC Mountain Watch:** Lukas presented an excerpt of an email she had received from Georgia Murray, AMC Staff Scientist, concerning AMC's mountain watch program. In essence, the email excerpt presents several options to assist with the AMC Mountain Watch Fall Foliage Observation Program. Lukas presented copies of this excerpt to all Board members which requests trip leaders, individual members, or chapters to adopt a peak that they visit throughout the fall and in future years to monitor foliage change during the season. The information collected will be used for scientific data. Lukas suggested that people check out the AMCMtnwatch@outdoors.org website for further information. Lukas agreed to email the survey associated with this program to Napolitano so he could email it to hike leaders.
- 2. Trails at Robinson State Park:** Lukas reported that the Friends of Robinson State Park had contacted her to have someone from AMC come down to assess trails at this park and determine how much work needed to be done to clear them. Fletcher reported that he had already spoken with this group and recommended to the Board that we not get involved in this as there are issues, political and otherwise, that we should not get involved with.
- 3. Club-wide template for all chapters' websites:** Discussion occurred with regard to developing a common template for a website for all chapters that would be more user friendly. Issues of concern involve aesthetics (do chapters want to give up designs unique to their chapter), technical (will design changes fit with the system currently being used), and having the AMC provide a template with no charge to chapters. Beatty stated that any major changes would require significant planning and recommended that any problems with regard to using websites be reported to webmasters. After discussion, it was decided that we should just let the situation play out.

Committee Reports

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier

Pelletier reported that it had been a good summer with AT projects and good work by volunteers. There were no problems reported with trail use and a number of projects are still scheduled through the end of October. He further reported that a number of hike leaders had offered to test water sites that hikers use during hikes scheduled for AT day on October 6, 2007. Kits used for this purpose are set up to test water on site or at home and results can be submitted online. Dillman has published articles regarding upcoming AT day. Lastly, Pelletier reported that the AT brochure had been updated and reprinted.

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer

Hanauer reported that the Fall newsletter was out. In this issue he has listed numerous activities scheduled. The deadline for the winter newsletter is November 1, 2007. Hanauer plans to profile committees in future newsletters and will start with the Conservation Committee.

Canoe/Kayak: Connie Peterson

Peterson reported that the first meeting of Canoe/Kayak Committee was postponed. However, they had their annual West River weekend in Jamaica, VT, and, although participant numbers in this event were down, a good time was had by all who attended. Peterson further reported that they are having real trouble with the Army Corps of Engineers over water releases and that there is pressure on them from Fish and Wildlife with regard to this issue and damage to fish.

Conservation: Pat Lukas

Lukas reported that Russ Cohen was their guest speaker at a recent potluck held in Northampton. He spoke about wild edibles which everyone found very interesting. She further reported that Charlie Camp had agreed to assist with river cleanup and she invited everyone to participate in "Source to Sea" cleanup scheduled for September 29, 2007.

Membership: Deborah Levine

Levine asked if anyone was available to do a short 20 minute presentation on the AMC at her monthly potluck to be held in Agawam on Wednesday, September 26th from 6:30 to 8 PM. She further reported that she had several members participating in the upcoming potluck scheduled for October 9th in Northampton. They will be doing brief slide presentations on places they have been. Levine also encouraged committees to send out notices to their list servers of the upcoming Big Berkshire Bash to be held on November 3, 2007 at the Summit House in Holyoke. There will be dinner, meeting, volunteer recognition, and a dance. The event cost is \$25 pp and she asked that everyone talk this event up and to get registration forms in ASAP so she will have an accurate head count for dinner. Robertson reported that they will be raffling a free weekend at Noble View and Fletcher offered to provide M –M Guides for raffle.

Also of note, Levine reported that big changes were occurring with membership packets that are going to be sent out in the future. These packets are being developed by Joy Street and will be unique to each chapter and offer a huge reduction in mailing costs to chapters. Levine also reported that the new member potluck site has been booked at the American Legion in Hadley and is scheduled for March 29, 2008 and the Berkshire Chapter is hosting the Fall Gathering for 2009 that will be held at Becket Chimney Corners. When asked what current membership numbers are, Levine stated they were holding steady at 2800 to 2900. Druzisky offered to bring in membership numbers for the next meeting in October.

Mountaineering: Jim Van Natta

Van Natta reported that the core group of those involved with mountaineering remains the same with

regard to numbers. There has been some people cruising from other chapters. Martin-Thompson informed everyone that she had heard from Alice Hodgeson and she is well and hiking in places she always dreamed of hiking.

Outings: Bob Napolitano

Napolitano reported that several activities were scheduled for the day of the Big Berkshire Bash. These include hikes and bikes. He is still looking for a coordinator to replace him but stated he would stay on the Board until someone stepped forward to assume that responsibility. He also wondered how people are finding out about hikes....through the AMC Outdoors publication or on websites.

Public Relations: Bess Dillman

Dillman reported that she is publicizing the potlucks and had covered all publicity bases for AT day.

Trails: Pat Fletcher

Fletcher reported that they are moving forward with M-M trail head efforts in Southwick . He is working with Joy Street with regard to the logistics of rerouting the M-M around the Coles property. He is also has someone working on the Gap Mountain side and is working on trails in that area. He is not aware of the current status of National Scenic Trails but stated issues still need to be resolved with regard to sections of the M-M Trail.

Training and Education: Jon Hanauer for Chris Fogarty

Hanauer reported that Leadership Training program is scheduled for October 27 and 28 at Noble View. Aaron Gorban or Jessica Wilson of the AMC staff will be present. A number of existing leaders will be present as well to assist with this event. He further reported that Chris is putting together a bike leader training program.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Pelletier, seconded by Fletcher, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 15, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary