

Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee
FINAL REVISED Minutes of Meeting – November 12, 2007

Present: Jon Hanauer, Deb Levine, Jim Pelletier, Rob Robertson, Bob Bergstrom, Cosmo Catalano, Bess Dillman, Pat Lukas, and Pat Stevenson

Call to order and acceptance of minutes: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. The minutes of October 15, 2007 were presented and read. On a motion by Catalano, seconded by Levine, the minutes were approved unanimously with one revision.

Announcements: Jon Hanauer

Hanauer announced that he had received a financial statement from Roger Scholl showing that the funds we transferred to Porter Dickinson had increased by about \$3,000 to \$4,000. He will email the exact amount to the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Jon Hanauer

None was available as Druzisky was not present for the meeting.

New Business: Jon Hanauer and Deb Levine

Big Berkshire Bash Report

Hanauer and Levine reported that the Big Berkshire Bash was a huge success with about 80 people in attendance. Many Tuesday hikers appeared and there was a wide age range present for the event. Discussion ensued relative to the cost of the event which has historically cost the chapter more than it has taken in for this event. The same was true this year. However, Levine and Hanauer felt that promoting the event earlier next year via advertising, word of mouth, etc. might draw more people in and hopefully allow the chapter to at least break even. Robertson recommended that we get a financial accounting from Druzisky showing expenses vs. income for the event. However, all agreed that because of the success of the event this year that we should do the same next year.

Risk Management Audit

Levine reported that Napolitano, Outings Committee, had provided a structure for doing a risk management audit. Robertson reported that he had contacted Henry Schreiber to ask if he was aware of any club having done this and if so were there any templates in place to follow. Schreiber stated he was not aware of anyone doing this at this time. Robertson also contacted Aaron Gorbin to inquire the same of him but to date had not gotten a reply. Levine offered to contact Canoe/Kayak and Mountaineering committees to request similar documents that Napolitano had submitted for the Outings committee. Bergstrom mentioned that Beatty had offered to set up an online document program that committees could access to made edits.

2009 Fall Gathering

Levine reported that the AMC Berkshire Chapter will be hosting the 2009 Fall Gathering scheduled for October 16-18, 2009. She further reported that she had looked into hosting it at the Berkshire Chimney Corners YMCA Camp in Beckett, Mass. The cost to members would be approximately \$139 pp which includes meals, snacks, lodging, and use of a ropes course monitored by staff at the camp. Levine plans to contact members who had planned the 2003 Fall Gathering and hopes to get input and assistance from them for planning the 2009 Fall Gathering.

On a motion by Lukas, seconded by Catalano, hosting the 2009 Fall Gathering at Berkshire Chimney Corners YMCA Camp was approved unanimously.

Old Business: Jon Hanauer

Nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier and Cosmo Catalano

Upper Goose Pond Cabin has been closed for the season. An additional privy has been converted from a pit to moldering type. A days work was spent in the towns of Mt. Washington and Hinsdale posting signs and barricading access points used by ATV users and horseback riders, both are illegal uses of AT lands. The AT Volunteer hours were submitted to the National park Systems (an annual requirement of maintaining clubs) with 8.8K volunteer hours reported. The Maintainer/Monitor Gathering has been set for February 4, 2008 and Upper Goose Pond Cabin Caretakers will be invited to participate this year. AT Committee member Steve Smith was named regional Volunteer of the Year at the recent NE RPC meeting in Fairlee, VT.

Catalano reported that they are looking to fill a position formerly held by Sarah Sheehy, Southern New England Regional Trails Coordinator which organizes trail maintenance. He sent an email to Joy Street asking them to continue to support this position.

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer

The deadline for the spring newsletter is February 1, 2008.

Conservation: Pat Lukas

Lukas reported that she will be part of the Tuesday, November 13, 2007 potluck that Levine is hosting. She further stated that she is having a difficult time getting the committee off the ground and would like more involvement. She offered to put something in writing to Hanauer to put in the Berkshire Exchange to highlight her committee. Hanauer is also supposed to do a writeup of her committee at some point in the future.

Family Programs: Jon Hanauer for Bob Wallner

Hanauer reported that Wallner is taking a temporary sabbatical until Spring, 2008. Two of his trips were canceled due to lack of interest. These were DAR State Forrest and Lonesome Lake in NH. However the Savoy State Forrest trip is on and will be led by Wayne Rodriquez and Janice Doubleday. This trip is scheduled for December 14 to 16, 2007.

Membership: Deb Levine

Levine reported that she is looking into hosting upcoming potlucks beginning February, 2008 at the Bangs Community Center in Amherst. Hanauer reported that out of area Berkshire Chapter members are being bounced into their area chapters so that may affect the figures for our total chapter membership. He spoke with Joy Street about this issue and they stated it was a computer related problem that they were working on to fix.

Noble View: Rob Robertson

Robertson was pleased to report that the Town of Russell had been awarded the Self-Help Grant they were seeking and that AMC staff in Boston...specifically Roger Scholl deserved much credit for sheparding this grant through the application process. He also suggested that Noble View be considered as an off-site for lodging for the 2009 Fall Gathering as it is close to where the event will be held.

Public Relations: Bess Dillman

Dillman announced that she has been publicizing the potlucks and is currently looking at publicizing in Turley Publications. She plans to leave at the end of 2008 and would like to start training someone to replace her.

Training and Education: Pat Lukas, attendee

Pat Lukas reported that she had attended the Leadership Training program at Noble View this past Fall. There were 10 participants and 5 leaders present and the feedback from the program was all positive.

Website: Bob Bergstrom

Bergstrom reported that Beatty had offered to set up a program similar to Wikipedia where committees can post documents such as those for a risk management audit to allow ease of editing by committee members. At Robertson's recommendation Bergstrom will discuss this issue further with Beatty and Gonter-Weld to determine who would have access to make edits to posted documents. Bergstrom further reported that he would like to develop a committee to work with him to improve navigation on our chapter's website. He will send an email to committee members to serve on this committee.

Annual Reports from Committees: Jon Hanauer

Hanauer reminded all committee chairs that they needed to submit an annual report for their committee for the year 2007.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn at 8 P.M. was made by Pelletier, seconded by Bergstrom and approved unanimously.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Monday, December 17, 2007 at 6:30 P.M.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary