

Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee
FINAL Minutes of Meeting - January 7, 2008

Present: Pat Lukas, Rob Robertson, Jon Hanauer, Bob Wallner, Bob Bergstrom, Jim Van Natta, Pat Fletcher, Deb Levine, Bob Napolitano, Connie Peterson, Bill Fogel, and Pat Stevenson

Guest present: Michelle Hoyt

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 P.M. On a motion by Fletcher, seconded by Napolitano, the minutes of the December 17, 2007 meeting were read and approved unanimously with minor revisions.

Announcements: Deb Levine

Levine reported that a leadership audit has begun. She is working with Rob Robertson on this issue and both feel that this process will benefit the chapter and our leaders.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Druzisky

Druzisky was not present to give a report.

New Business: Jon Hanauer

2008 Budget:

Hanauer reported a projected income of \$15,000 and projected expenses of \$15,535. These figures do not include funds in the Porter Dickinson fund. Levine reported additional expenses to contract with Becket Chimney Corners where we will be hosting the 2009 Fall Gathering. She needs \$3,000 for a deposit. \$2,500 will be an advance from Joy Street and she needs \$500 from the chapter to complete the deposit amount required. She does not anticipate this event being an expense to the chapter. Robertson suggested submitting an SDA for the \$500 from Joy Street. On a motion by Napolitano, seconded by Robertson, Hanauer agreed to follow through on this suggestion. If we do not get the SDA for \$500 that plus the additional \$535 in expenses as noted above means we will be \$1,035 in the red for 2008. Hanauer recommended trimming some budgets for 2008. Discussion ensued and the following budgets were trimmed:

- Leader recognition (Outings Committee) budget trimmed back to \$250.
- Family Programs trimmed to \$200.
- Conservation trimmed to \$200.
- Trails trimmed to \$75.
- Young Members trimmed to \$150.

Following discussion, on a motion by Levine, seconded by Bergstrom, the 2008 Budget revisions were approved unanimously. Hanauer and Levine will verify some figures with Teri Morrow at AMC in Boston.

Comcast email addresses:

Bergstrom announced that there is a website committee meeting scheduled for Friday, January 11, 2008. He will send an email out notifying members of the details of the meeting. Hanauer reported that Comcast will no longer accept aliases with comcast.net addresses. Bergstrom agreed to look into this and give a more in depth report at our next meeting in February. Hanauer plans to email a revised committee roster.

Old Business: Deb Levine and Jon Hanauer

Levine and Hanauer gave a followup report on the Big Berkshire Bash plans for 2008. The Summit House has been booked again for this event. The question remains as to whether we should hire a band, a DJ, or have a speaker for this event. Discussion ensued about what is likely to draw people to this event and keep them there. Napolitano felt we should go back to having a speaker for this event. Levine asked people to think of names of potential speakers. She will also look into the cost of a DJ for this event.

Hanauer reminded all members of the AMC Summit scheduled for January 26, 2008. There is a \$15 registration fee which is paid for by the chapter if anyone is interested in attending.

Levine reminded everyone that Spring Gathering is scheduled to be held in Sandwich, Mass. this year.

Committee Reports:

Appalachian Trail:

No one was present to give a report. However, Fletcher reported that a meeting of maintainers for the AT was scheduled for the first weekend in February. Also, Upper Goose Pond Cabin is tentatively scheduled to reopen May 17, 2008 but this date was not confirmed yet. Also, if anyone is interested in volunteering to maintain the AT, they should add their name to the list.

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer

Hanauer reported that the deadline for the spring issue of the Berkshire Exchange is February 1, 2008.

Canoe/Kayak: Connie Peterson

Peterson reported that they are planning the safety river cleanup on the upper part of the Deerfield River. This is a cleanup of more dangerous items. This event is tentatively being scheduled for June, 2008 and they are expecting assistance from New York/New Jersey paddlers.

Conservation: Pat Lukas

Lukas reminded everyone of the new book that will be available for sale at the Annual Meeting called Low Carbon Diet and recommended it to members.

Family Programs: Bob Wallner

Wallner had nothing to report at this time.

Membership: Deb Levine

Levine reported that potlucks at the Unitarian Church continue to be a success with a good core group in attendance. Future potlucks will be held the second Tuesday of February, April, and May. She further reported that the Annual New Member Potluck is scheduled for March 29, 2008. Laurie Sanders will be coming and she is looking for help with setup, take down, and anyone who might be interested in doing slide presentations.

Mountaineering: Jim Van Natta

Van Natta reported there is very little climbing at this time due to weather....most climbing is at indoor facilities. New members are ebbing and they plan to publicize more in April. Also, they are planning safety training for members.

Noble View: Rob Robertson

Robertson reported that they are starting demolition on the kitchen wing at the North Cottage at Noble View. He further reported that construction work that had been done on the bath house project had been winterized and protected.

Nominating: Deb Levine

Levine reported that she knows someone who may be interested in replacing Bess Dillman who plans to step down from Public Relations. Dillman has agreed to help in the transition.

Outings: Bob Napolitano

Napolitano asked Fogarty if she had received list of leaders and Fogarty responded yes.

Trails: Pat Fletcher

Fletcher reported that there is not much going on. At present, there is no meeting of the Trails Committee set for January but he is looking at possibly having one on 1/23/08. If this meeting is held it will be for the purpose of planning, receiving reports for 2007, and getting updates on the M & M situation.

Training and Education: Chris Fogarty

Fogarty reported via phone that Leadership Training is scheduled for April 5 and 6, 2008 at Noble View. The cost is \$25. Existing leaders attend for free.

Website: Bob Bergstrom

Bergstrom reported that not much has changed since we last met except the discussion about comcast emails which he intends to look into and give a more in depth report at our next meeting in February. After the meeting he has scheduled to discuss website issues, he will have a better sense of what the issues are with the website.

There being no further business, Bergstrom motioned to adjourn at 8:20 P.M., seconded by Wallner, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 25, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary