

Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting - February 25, 2008

Present: Pat Lukas, Rob Robertson, Jon Hanauer, Bob Bergstrom, Jim Van Natta, Deb Levine, Bob Napolitano, Jim Pelletier, Cosmo Catalano, Bill Fogel, Jim Wells, Chris Fogarty via phone, and Pat Stevenson

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 P.M. The minutes were reviewed and, on a motion by Catalano, seconded by Fogel, the minutes of the January 7, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously with revisions.

Announcements: Jon Hanauer

Hanauer reported that Bob Wallner had stepped down as Family Program Chairperson. At present the position is vacant. [Also, Hanauer welcomed Jim Wells as our new Berkshire County Representative.](#) Hanauer also announced that he had received an email from Faith at AMC in Boston relative to Special Projects Funds that were available. He encouraged committee chairs to apply for these funds but informed everyone that preference is given to projects that are conservation related. Educational programs geared toward "leave no trace" might also be considered. Preference will also be given to applications that have matching funds to do projects. The deadline for applying for these funds is April 15, 2008. Hanauer will email all information relative to these funds to members of the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Druzisky

Druzisky was not present to give a report. Hanauer reported that he had heard from Druzisky and reported that our net income for 2007 was higher than anticipated by \$2,321. Reasons given were:

- ~~_____~~Berkshire Exchange only sent out three times during 2007.
- [Outings and Conservation Committees spent no money.](#)
- ~~Druzisky had not yet gotten the bill for our Chapter's share~~
~~_____ of the insurance bill that each chapter contributes towards.~~

Hanauer also reported that the interest income during 2007 on Porter-Dickinson was \$3,270 and interest on ~~Van Guard~~ [Vanguard](#) was \$306.

New Business:

1. Guest Mike Gildesgame, Policy Manager for AMC Southern New England did not make it to this meeting.
2. Club-wide meeting travel budget: Hanauer reported that he had gotten the SDA request for travel in the amount of \$1,500. This plus the \$1,500 budgeted for travel increases the total amount available for travel to \$3,000 for 2008. He encouraged committee members to attend club-wide events as this money is available to all. The next event is Spring Gathering which is April 18 to 20, 2008 in Sandwich, Mass.
3. Wilderness First Aid Subsidies: Fogel and Van Natta both discussed the importance of keeping leaders up to date on WFA and rescue training. Fogel related a very recent experience in the wilderness where a serious injury had occurred and emergency rescue became necessary and wondered if the chapter should apply for SDA monies for leaders in mountaineering as well as leaders in other activities within the chapter to update their WFA skills. Hanauer encouraged them to apply for SDA money independently for their leaders in mountaineering listing WFA training as primary and rescue

training as secondary.

4. March 29 New Members Potluck: Levine reported that she had gotten important feedback from a participant in the New Members Potluck last year. Rather than have committee members speak about what they do it would be better to have committee members speak about how new members can become involved in the AMC. She asked committee members to think about this and think of ways to present this information that are specific and likely to draw people in and get them involved. She also asked all executive committee members to bring an appetizer to this event. Lukas suggested that we should also ask people to bring their own place settings (plates and utensils). Hanauer will put this information on the web.

5. Request for Committees to sponsor monthly Tuesday evening potlucks: Levine asked if each committee chair would begin to think about sponsoring a monthly potluck and give a presentation. There is a core group of about 20 people attending this monthly event and she would like to see it continue.

Old Business:

1. Big Berkshire Bash: Levine reported that she had secured the Summit House again for our Big Berkshire Bash to be held on November 1, 2008. She is still looking for a speaker and a DJ for the event and asked member to make recommendations.

2. Update on internal risk management audit: Levine reported that she continues to work on this. The focus of which is to determine what each committee is doing with regard to risk management and do they meet AMC guidelines.

Committee Reports:

Appalachian Trail: Cosmo Catalano

Catalano reported that they had begun a project list and that the maintainers meeting held in January was well attended. Upper Goose Pond Cabin caretakers guide was updated. He further reported that National Park Service land located in Cheshire that they monitor and has special use permits is causing problems as one person is not doing what he needs to do and Catalano is seeking someone to help with this problem. Catalano also reported that he will be stepping down as chair of the AT and Pelletier will be replacing him.

Berkshire County Rep: Jim Wells

This was Wells first meeting so he was just present to see how everything works and had nothing to report.

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer

Hanauer reported that the deadline for the summer Berkshire Exchange ~~was~~is Monday, May 5, 2008.

Conservation: Pat Lukas

Lukas reported that Andrea Donelan, steward for the Watershed Council will give update on the status of the Connecticut River which has been designated a National Heritage River.

Membership: Deb Levine

All was reported under New and Old Business.

Mountaineering: Bill Fogel

Fogel reported there was a planning meeting coming up for summer events. Most of what they are doing now is evening climbing in gyms and a few outdoor ski trips.

Noble View: Rob Robertson

Robertson reported that there was a declining interest in traditional events that have been held at Noble View in the past and he is wondering what can be done to attract more people to these events. The question seems to be is Noble View going to be a place relevant for members at large or is it going to become more suitable for group rentals using it for gatherings/events. One issue has been the lack of a bath house and toilet facilities. At this time, he has no insight yet as to what direction Noble View is going to take.

Nominating: Rob Robertson

Robertson had nothing to report at this time. However, Levine reported that the person she had spoken with about replacing Bess Dillman on Public Relations was in fact not interested in serving on the Executive Committee.

Outings: Bob Napolitano

Napolitano reminded all members that there is a farewell dinner scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at the Whately Inn to honor Gloria LaFlamme who has run the Tuesday Hiking program. He recommended getting a \$50 gift certificate for LaFlamme from the Chapter. On a motion by Catalano, seconded by Levine, his recommendation was approved unanimously. Hanauer will get this certificate. If anyone is interested in attending this event the cost is \$25 for dinner and \$10 towards a gift for LaFlamme. Members can contact Amy Cohen at 413-584-3843.

Also, Hanauer announced that there is \$150 scholarship available to anyone who would like to attend Mountain Leadership School and Robertson reported there was \$150 scholarship to Noble View. Hanauer will advertise both of these in the next Berkshire Exchange.

Training and Education: Chris Fogarty

Fogarty reported that Leadership Training scheduled for April, 2008 at Noble View is moving along. Several people are signed up and she is currently lining up trip leaders to participate. She welcomed participation by members of the mountaineering group.

Website: Bob Bergstrom

Bergstrom reported that the new date for the Ad Hoc Committee meeting is Friday, March 7, 2008. The last meeting they had was animated and he is ready to put recommendations into action. He suggested members forward pictures to him of trips, events, etc. to post on our website.

There being no further business, on a motion by Robertson, seconded by Napolitano, and approved unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary

