

1Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee  
**DRAFT** Minutes of Meeting – April 28, 2008

**Present:** Jon Hanauer, Deb Levine, Pat Fletcher, Jim Pelletier, Kelly Druzisky, Bob Napolitano, Rob Robertson, Bob Bergstrom, Cosmo Catalano, Jim Wells, Nancy Gonter-Weld, Pat Lukas, Connie Peterson, and Pat Stevenson

**Guests:** Mike Gildesgame, Roger Scholl, Matt Moore, Polly Bartlett, and Peter Buell

**Call to order and acceptance of minutes:** The meeting was called to order at 6:39 P.M. The minutes of March 24, 2008 were reviewed. On a motion by Catalano, seconded by Levine, the minutes were approved unanimously with revisions.

**Announcements: Roger Scholl**

Scholl reported that the AMC is currently reviewing its bylaws and operating rules to bring them up to date. When the review is completed, the AMC will share the revised bylaws and operating rules with our chapter's Executive Committee Chair and Vice Chair. Scholl asked that the Chair and Vice Chair review the revised bylaws and operating rules and submit any recommendations for change to the AMC. Once their recommendations have been reviewed and any changes made as a result, the new bylaws and operating rules will be mailed electronically to our chapter. Scholl further requested that any proposed changes be sent to the AMC by the end of June, 2008. The AMC hopes to have the revised bylaws and operating rules completed by January, 2009.

Some highlights to consider:

1. Changing the way we reach out to members from mail to electronic mail.
2. Provisions for ways to remove directors for inappropriate behavior.
3. Chapter bylaws do not need to be changed to meet club standard bylaws.

Hanauer agreed to send the bylaws out to members of the Executive Committee.

**Treasurer's Report: Kelly Druzisky**

Druzisky reported that \$5,000 had been expended year-to-date. \$5500 is in revenue which includes our first dues allocation. Robertson motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Peterson, approved unanimously.

**Mahican-Mohawk Trail: Polly Bartlett and Peter Buell**

Bartlett described the trail's route as being approximately 8 1/4 miles in length starting at the Shelburne Falls State Police Barracks on Route 2 in Shelburne Falls and continuing to Hoosic Road in Deerfield. She reported that Peter Janagh of DC & R wants more agency and local people involved in the trail's maintenance. She is looking for assistance from us and expertise in maintaining this trail. Building a bridge near the South River is a high priority as well as keeping

the trail clear and in good condition. She further reported that sections of the trail have been posted by local residents and as a result not passable. However, she would like our assistance in maintaining those sections of the trail that are passable. The primary needs include:

1. Setting up trail crews
2. Doing step repairs
3. Posting trail signs
4. Replacing bog bridges

Bartlett reported that she has a pool of names of people who might be willing to be trained and assist with this project. Matt Moore might be willing to provide training on building steps and doing necessary trail maintenance. However, one person needs to be identified to oversee the project, a budget needs to be available to get tools to do necessary repairs, and priorities need to be identified before he gets involved.

#### **Fall Gathering: Deb Levine**

Levine encouraged everyone to attend Fall Gathering.

#### **Family Programs:**

The Chapter is looking for ideas from everyone to support the No Child Left Inside program. We are looking for ideas from everyone to get single and dual families out to play with us. Some ideas recommended include:

1. Make SDA money available for naturalist programs.
2. Mention all programs geared toward families in leadership training programs.
3. Involve families in identifying "Critical Treasures" that need to be protected.
4. Involve families in park cleanups.
5. Reach out to other chapters to see what models they are using to attract families.
6. Have Critical Treasures hunts (i.e. geocaching and letter boxing).

#### **Critical Treasures: Mike Gildesgame**

Gildesgame would like a list submitted by July 15, 2008. Hanauer agreed to advertise in the Berkshire Exchange. Furthermore, it was agreed to make this a focus of our next meeting on May 28, 2008. Gildesgame will bring a big map to assist with this project. Hanauer will also include it in our agenda.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **AT Committee: Jim Pelletier**

Pelletier reported that a project list had been posted on our website. He is looking for a caretaker at Upper Goose Pond for two weeks.

##### **Berkshire County Representative: Jim Wells**

Wells had nothing to report.

**Canoe/Kayak Committee: Connie Peterson**

Peterson reported that the season is about to begin. There is a safety cleanup scheduled at the end of May at Monroe Bridge. Gonter-Weld will post on our website.

**Conservation Committee: Pat Lukas**

Lukas reported that she attended Earth Day at Mass Audubon. She spoke with Mary Shanley, Director of three sanctuaries about the need for annual events for projects and programs with the AMC.

**Membership Committee: Deb Levine**

Levine reported that the Conservation Committee is sponsoring the potluck to be held on May 13, 2008. The New Members potluck was well attended and successful. She is looking for a free venue for the Fall potluck. The Easthampton Community Center may be a possibility. Any venue should be free, have good space, a place for food prep, parking, and be accessible for slide or computer presentations.

**Noble View Committee: Rob Robertson**

Robertson reported that they were cleared to move forward with

Robertson further reported that the sanitary sewer system permit expired and the regulations have changed for getting a new permit. They do not know if the new regulations will add to construction costs. Pricing and transportation of materials may be higher at this time.

**Outings Committee: Bob Napolitano**

Napolitano reported that there are currently 55 leaders and 26 co-leaders for outings.

**Website Committee: Bob Bergstrom**

Bergstrom asked everyone to submit photos for the Chapter's website. He further reported that an ad-hoc committee had been established and planned to meet at Gonter-Weld's house on May 18, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

**Trails Committee: Pat Fletcher**

Fletcher reported that there will be a vote in the Fall on the O'Sullivan property which is the southern most portion of the M & M trail.

There being no further business, Pelletier motioned to adjourn at 8:40 P.M., seconded by Napolitano, approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary