1Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting – June 16, 2008

Present: Jon Hanauer, Nancy Weld, Deb Levine, Jim Pelletier, Pat Lukas, Jim Van Natta, Rob Robertson, Paxton Berardy, and Bob Napolitano

Call to order and acceptance of minutes: The meeting was called to order at 6:36 P.M. There were no minutes for May 28, 2008 due to poor attendance.

Nominations ~~and elections~~: Four new members were nominated ~~and elected~~ by a unanimous vote to the following positions on the Board:

--Nancy Weld, Chair of Family Programs
--Diane Furtek, Chair of Membership Committee (replacing Deb Levine who is preparing to take over as Chair of the Executive Committee).
--Paxton Berardy and Wendy Barbour, Co-chairs of Young Members Committee

Announcements: Jon Hanauer:
Hanauer reported that the chapter is receiving donations in te memory of a man named Lorne Parisien. The Boston office received donations as did Jon, totaling $885 to date. Jon expects the money will go to the Appalachian Trail Committee as the family wanted it used toward trails in the North Adams area. Jon will send cards to acknowledge the gifts. Weld motioned to accept the gifts and turn them over to the AT Committee, seconded by Napolitano, approved unanimously.

Leader Appreciation Day will be held July 13, 2008 at the DAR State Forest in Goshen. Those who plan to attend should let Chris Fogarty or Deb Levine know.

Hanauer reminded members that the AMC Fall Gathering will be held October 17 to 19 in Maryland. A van may be rented to transport a group down.

Hanauer also reported that there are currently no vacancies on the Executive Committee.

<u>Committee Reports:</u>
Conservation Committee: Pat Lukas
Lukas reported on a plan for a training field trip for leaders about geology. Steve Mabee, the Massachusetts state geologist who has an office at U Mass, proposed the trip which is similar to what Geology 101 students get. There is no charge for the trip other than a donation for gas. September 27 was selected as the date for this trip. Lukas noted that the Hitchcock Center would charge $150 an hour for training they provide. Suggestions were made for less expensive alternatives, including the New England Naturalist Training Center in Northfield.

Outings Committee: Bob Napolitano
Napolitano proposed tracking which leaders have received Wilderness First Aid Training. There was some discussion of how this could be done. Hanauer suggested adding a column to the existing Approved Leader List.

Appalachian Trail Committee: Jim Pelletier
Pelletier reported that Northbound through hikers are starting to appear. More groups are using the shelters during the day and overnight. The project list has been started and there are four new caretakers for the Upper Goose Shelter. Catalano has indicated he will be stepping down and Pelletier will assume the new Chair of this committee. Catalano will remain as volunteer coordinator. Deborah Wisenstein will be Vice Chair. All were reminded that AT Day is October 4, 2008.

Berkshire County Representative: Jon Hanauer for Jim Wells
Hanauer reported that he and Levine met with Berkshire County Rep Jim Wells along with leader Dona Burdick. The goal is to start hikes and potlucks in September.

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer
Hanauer reported there may be changes in how the Berkshire Exchange is mailed out because the company that prints it has started a mailing service. Also, later in the year members may be able to receive Berkshire Exchange via email and opt out of the printed version.

Membership Committee: Deb Levine
Levine reported that the Annual Meeting will be November 1, 2008. She will be reserving the American Legion for the Annual New Members Potluck in March.

Mountaineering Committee: Jim Van Natta
Van Natta reported that a large number of people are going through ropes training courses and that new courses have been added for people who learn to climb in a gym and want to transfer those skills to the outdoors.

Noble View Committee: Rob Robertson
Robertson reported that the conservation restriction at Noble View is moving forward and approximately $672,500 will be received by the AMC. GPS mapping of the trails at Noble View is in progress and the goal is to have better trail markings. Revenue from Noble View so far this year is $14,000, up from $11,000 at the same time last year.

Young Members Committee: Paxton Berardy
Berardy reported on the Young Members leaders meeting held on June 1, 2008 at Hanauer's house. He is working with the Young Members to increase participation.

On a motion by Napolitano, seconded by Pelletier, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 21, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.

Nancy Weld, Family Programs Chair
for Pat Stevenson, Secretary (absent)