Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting - July 21, 2008

Present: Jon Hanauer, Pat Lukas, Jim Pelletier, Bess Dillman, Deb Levine, Rob Robertson, Connie Peterson, Jim Wells, Bill Fogel, and Pat Stevenson

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 P.M. On a motion by Pelletier, seconded by Levine, the minutes of the April 28 and June 16, 2008 meetings were read and approved unanimously with revisions.

Announcements: Jon Hanauer
Hanauer asked Mountaineering if anything was done on SDA request for subsidies for Wilderness First Aid training. He needs requests by September 1, 2008 so he can get them to Mike Barry by September 15, 2008. This year $10,000 is available but only $5,000 is available for next year. WFA training is scheduled for September 20 and 21 and
November 22 and 23 of this year. WFA training is subsidized for active Berkshire Chapter leaders. Advanced WFA traning will be held on December 7 but that is not subsidized.

Treasurers Report: Jon Hanauer
Hanauer stated there was no report available. He further reported that Porter Dickinson had dropped during the first quarter of this year by about $2,000. Levine recommended that if it continues to go down we should contact Joy Street to see what they recommend.

New Business: Jon Hanauer
Hanauer reported that Chris Fogarty should be congratulated on a job well done for organizing Leader Appreciation Day which was held on Sunday, July 13, 2008. There was good attendance from across the spectrum of leaders. Also, Levine reported the Risk Management Audit is on track [Old Business].

Old Business: Jon Hanauer and Deb Levine
Hanauer asked who was interested in attending the AMC Fall Gathering to be hosted by the DC Chapter of the AMC from October 17 to 19, 2008 in North East MD. Thus far, Robertson, Levine, Hanauer and Furtek are all definites with Lukas being somewhat sure. Hanauer will contact Roger Scholl to see if transportation is available to this event. Hanauer will send an email to everyone with details of costs for partners of attendees.

Levine reported that the Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2008 at the Summit View House in Holyoke. The cost is $25 pp. The guest speaker is Craig Brandon who will be speaking on Monadnock. More information on this event will follow in the Berkshire Exchange.

Committee Reports:
Young Members: Jon Hanauer
Four young members Leaders have scheduled hikes. Three are general hikes and not just for young members.

Public Relations: Bess Dillman
Dillman reported that she will be publicizing upcoming events that were already discussed.

Nominating: Rob Robertson
Robertson reported that he has been in discussion about new members for the Executive Committee. However, individual committees nominate and elect their own people to head their committees.

Noble View: Rob Robertson
Robertson reported that he was at Noble View recently and noted conditions of the property. A new road has been cleared and gravel put on it that will be used for parking. This space may be ready in about a week. Heavy equipment has been used to clear many of the tree stumps that were present and they are planning to seed an area of Noble View with wild flowers. Many of the dead wood piles will be gone by the end of summer. The entire area will be raked and look better by the end of summer. They are thinking of hiring someone to do the mowing. Construction is moving forward on the bath house and they are testing plumbing lines to see if they will hold pressure. Robertson plans to send an email out to see if anyone is interested in helping with projects. Suckers from old trees and stone walls need to be removed. The Noble View website is half way completed and they plan to have links to Berkshire Chapter website on it. They are thinking about changing the name from Noble View to Noble View Outdoor Center.

Mountaineering: Bill Fogel
Fogel reported that they had a very successful training season. There are twenty new climbers.

Membership: Deb Levine for Diane Furtek
Levine reported that September and October potlucks had been planned. The October potluck will focus on places people have gone to. Levine encouraged everyone to contact Furtek if they have recommendations for speakers for the potlucks. All potlucks will be held at the Hadley Senior Center on Route 9 and 47. They will be held the first Wednesday of every month and everyone is required to bring their own place settings.

Family Programs: Jon Hanauer for Nancy Gonter-Weld
Hanauer reported that he and Robertson are co-leading hikes with Weld.

Conservation: Pat Lukas
Lukas had nothing to report but encouraged everyone to sign on for the Geology Field Trip scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2008.

Canoe/Kayak: Connie Peterson
Peterson reported that a lot of dangerous material was taken out during the Monroe Bridge River cleanup. She further reported that they did not have good attendance for this years cleanup. Zoar Outdoor did not assist and she was not happy about that. Lukas agreed to speak with the Connecticut River Watershed people to see if they will assist with next years cleanup. Peterson reported that the NY and NJ chapters have agreed to help with this project next year. The committee has a new sea kayak available to members.

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer
Hanauer reported that the software for setting up the Berkshire Exchange to send out electronically may be online in the Fall and members can opt out of the paper newsletter. Receiving the Berkshire Exchange electronically will hopefully save the chapter a lot of money in postage costs. A lot of hard work has gone into bringing this project to fruition. The deadline for the Fall newsletter is ~~October~~ August 1, 2008.

Berkshire County Representative: Jim Wells
Wells would like copies of the Berkshire Exchange to give to local libraries in his area. Also, he would like a list of current leaders with addresses and phone numbers.

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier
Pelletier reported that their project list is 2/3 done and all projects have gone well but more challenging ones are

coming up. A severe lightening strike hit a tall tree at Upper Goose Pond and they took care of cleaning that up in July. Pelletier further reported that there are problems with fire alarms in cabins at Upper Goose Pond and each time a new caretaker moves in they are tested. He further reported that there were a few issues with homeless people on the AT. AT day is all set to go but they are still looking for a leader for hike #14 and they are trying to arrange a shuttle service to the picnic area.

There being no further business, on a motion by Peterson, seconded by Wells the meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 24, 2008 at 4:30 P.M. at the home of Deb Levine. This meeting will be strictly social.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary