

Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting – November 19, 2008

Present: Deb Levine, Pat Fletcher, Kelly Druzisky, Bob Napolitano, Rob Robertson, Bob Bergstrom, Pat Lukas, Bill Fogel, Jim Wells, Paxton Berardy, and Pat Stevenson

Guests: Aaron Bond

Call to order and acceptance of minutes: The meeting was called to order at 6:36 P.M. The minutes of October 8, 2008 were presented and read. On a motion by Napolitano seconded by Wells, the minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Announcements: Deb Levine

Levine stated her intention to begin reading the AMC mission statement before each meeting of the Executive Committee as a reminder of why we are all here. With that the mission statement was read.

Levine went on to inform everyone that she was looking forward to her role as the new chairperson of our chapter and sees herself as a voice for our chapter. She further declared her intention to attend some of the subcommittee meetings to hear what each committee is doing and to support and be a voice for those committees at future chapter committee meetings.

Levine will be attending the Annual Meeting of the AMC scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009 and is looking for comments from members regarding their relationship with our former chapter chairperson, Jon Hanauer that she can express at the Annual Meeting. Members should send those comments to Levine.

Levine announced that Robertson had received “Appy of the Year Award” and we should all acknowledge that award when Robertson arrived at the meeting this evening.

Treasurer’s Report: Kelly Druzisky

Druzisky presented the AMC Berkshire Chapter 2008 Budget to Actual figures which cover the period through November 18, 2008. Total actual expenses are \$12,348, total actual income is \$14,624, so we are close to breaking even for calendar year 2008. \$900 was received from Joy Street for SDA for mountaineering. There is one more dues allocation due in. Fletcher asked how the Porter-Dickinson Fund was doing given the downturn in the economy and Druzisky stated she plans to give a report on that at the end of 2008.

Levine asked everyone to begin to plan their budget requests for calendar year 2009 as the budget will be the focus of the December meeting.

On a motion by Berardy, seconded by Napolitano, the Treasurer’s Report was approved unanimously as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Fall Gathering 2008 Report

Levine reported that several committee members had attended the Fall Gathering in Maryland. Some highlights from that event follow:

1. Spring Gatherings have been eliminated for three years to save money
2. SDA system will be eliminated but the need remains and Chapter Committees intend to look at new ways to supplement various chapters. One suggestion was to have all chapters contribute to a central fund that all chapters can draw upon. This would be an experiment for now and chapters would look at allocations based on fees received. Levine will keep us posted on that.
3. All chapters are looking at sending newsletters electronically to save money and Hanauer is planning to attend a training session on this that will resolve issues around this transformation.
4. Bylaw changes: Levine reported that she had attended a meeting relative to proposed changes in AMC Bylaws and Andy Nichols who had drafted the proposed changes was present. Some of the issues that were raised include:

--Issue of eliminating mission statement. Resolved by agreeing to leave it in.

--Issue of one Board meeting per year. Resolved by agreeing that it gave too much power to one so it will remain 4 meetings per year.

A new draft of the Bylaws will be sent out and Levine will get copies of that to members. Lastly, Levine reported that the AMC is working on Vision 2015 which is a long range planning vision. She will keep members posted on that.

Lukas reported that she had attended the Conservation Committee meeting at the Fall Gathering and shared these highlights:

1. In June, 2009, the Connecticut AMC Conservation Committee is having a meeting that she would like her committee to participate in.
2. She learned of an organization called Conservation Action Network (CAN) which allows any conservation committee to put their events online on the club wide website.
3. She further reported that there are presentations upcoming on global warming and encouraged members to attend these.

Levine reported on the Outdoor Leadership Committee meeting. Some highlights include:

1. Role of OLDC is to help AMC members do things more safely. With that in mind, the OLDC shared reports on trends/accidents.
2. OLDC is reviewing leadership guidelines which determine who is qualified to lead.
3. Sharon Foster is assuming chairperson role of OLDC for three years.

Nominating Committee Update

Robertson reported that job descriptions will be posted online for various positions on the Executive Committee. He also reported that the application to apply for these positions will be posted online. In addition, he recommended that he would like Executive Committee members to participate in the process by meeting people who are interested in serving by bringing them to meetings.

2009 Calendar

Levine asked everyone to update their annual reports for calendar year 2008. It was proposed that future annual reports should be from November to November rather than by calendar year.

Fall Gathering 2009 Planning

Levine reminded everyone that the Fall Gathering for 2009 will be hosted by our chapter and is scheduled for October 16 to 18, 2009 in the Berkshires. Levine asked everyone to be thinking about how they can assist with this gathering and to begin to think about displays appropriate for this event.

Annual Report Committee Reports

Levine asked everyone to have them ready by December 15, 2008.

OLD BUSINESS

Job Descriptions

Napolitano will create a template for job descriptions.

Change of Executive Committee Location Discussion

Levine reported that Van Natta had found a location in Northampton (Burger King Community Room) to hold future meetings. Druzisky reported that the Peoples Bank building in Holyoke is also available. After much discussion, a motion was made by Berardy, seconded by Fletcher to alternate our meetings between these two locations beginning in January, 2009 after which the Executive Committee will make a decision whether or not to continue this pattern. This was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Appalachian Trail: Levine for Pelletier

Levine reported that she had attended a meeting of the AT Committee.

Berkshire County Representative: Jim Wells

Wells reported he had represented our chapter at the EMS Club Day at the Berkshire Mall. He further reported that a small percentage EMS sales was given to each club represented that day. The total for our chapter was about \$50.

Berkshire Exchange: Levine for Hanauer

Levine reported that Hanauer is working on the next issue of the Berkshire Exchange.

Canoe and Kayak: Levine for Peterson

Levine reported that the inter chapter paddling committee had a meeting ten days ago. They discussed a variety of issues including the loss of dam releases on the West River in VT. These releases have already been cut down to one day each fall and spring.

Levine also reported that Peterson had informed her that several state chapters have indicated a willingness to assist in the Dryway (Deerfield River) Safety Cleanup which will occur some time in June, 2009. A subcommittee of three chapters has been formed to assess how to get at the remaining and more dangerous metal and other objects that pose a safety issue to boaters on this river.

Conservation: Pat Lukas

Lukas reported that the March New Member Potluck is highlighting locally grown foods. This event will be held at the American Legion in Hadley. She also mentioned that her committee is sponsoring the January potluck.

Mountaineering: Bill Fogel

Fogel reported that his members had participated in the training in single pitch rock instruction and learned much about safety and rescue techniques. The training was well attended. He also reported that his members had recently participated in the Western Mass Coalition to finish the parking lot at Farley and they had donated stuff to the kiosk located there. He also noted that VanNatta learned that someone was misusing their list serve and would like some guidance on how to prevent this from happening in the future. Robertson agreed to send guidelines on the use of list serves to all committee chairs.

Noble View: Rob Robertson

Robertson reported that things at Noble View are looking up. A perk test done recently passed. Tighe and Bond will develop plans for a new septic system and construction may begin in the Spring, 2009. The existing well needs to be decommissioned to the tune of approximately \$8,000 and relocated away from the planned septic system.

Outings: Bob Napolitano

Napolitano reported that December, January and February outings were booked. The three coleads requirement for new hike leaders is working well. He praised Fogarty for bringing in new people.

Trails: Pat Fletcher

Fletcher reported his committee will be meeting in Wendell November 24 and 25. His committee was approached by Four Rivers Charter School regarding working with him on a trail project. Fletcher is looking forward to working with the students of this school and hopes it will be an annual project. The person he is working with at the school is Elliott Levine.

On December 1, 2008, he is meeting with folks at Quabbin to work out MOU in Quabbin. He further reported that the National Scenic Trails status is dead for this legislative session and plans are in the works to refile next year.

His committee wants to plan to do trail work at the AMC Fall Gathering event to be held in 2009.

Training and Education: Levine for Fogarty

Levine reported that she is hosting another Leader Appreciation Day at her house on December 13, 2008 from 1 to 7 PM. This will be a potluck event. She also reported that Leadership Training held recently was successful.

Website: Bob Bergstrom

Bergstrom plans to hold another meeting to overhaul the website on December 12, 2008 at Nancy Gonter-Weld's house at 6:30 P.M. He asked everyone to submit recommendations for changes to the website to him before this meeting. He plans to send a notice of this meeting out to all committee members. To date expenses for the website are still zero.

Young Members: Paxton Berardy

Berardy reported that they did a hike to Sanderson Brook Falls which attracted a diverse group of individuals.

There being no further business, on a motion by Napolitano, seconded by Bergstrom, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Monday, December 15, 2008 at 6:30 P.M. at the Hadley location.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary

