

**Appalachian Mountain Club - Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting – January 14, 2009**

Present: Deb Levine, Kelly Druzisky, Bob Napolitano, Diane Furtek, Rob Robertson, Jim Pelletier, Pat Fletcher, Pat Lukas, Connie Peterson and Pat Stevenson

Call to order, reading of mission statement and acceptance of minutes: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. Levine read the mission statement and the minutes were read. On a motion by Pelletier, seconded by Napolitano, the minutes of December 15, 2008 were accepted unanimously as amended.

Announcements: Levine

Levine reminded everyone to please send her any executive updates so she can make everyone aware of what is going on in each committee. Updates can be brief.

Levine also reminded everyone of the upcoming Annual Meeting scheduled for February 7, 2009. Fletcher announced he will not be attending the Diversity Committee meeting on that day and asked if anyone would be interested in replacing him at that meeting.

Levine reminded everyone that AMC has a tax exempt status and will send the tax exempt form to everyone to use when making purchases on behalf of AMC. The tax exempt form is good until 2019.

Levine also reported that members had asked about the availability of using the AMC van. She had spoken with Matt about that and was told that regulations make it impossible for volunteers to use the van without jumping through hoops. However, she will look into that matter again in further depth and report back to the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Druzisky

Druzisky presented the final figures for calendar year 2008. It appears there is a net income from calendar year 2008 of around \$4000.

New Business

Website: Levine

1. Levine reported that a number of meetings have been ongoing to revise the Berkshire Chapter website to make it more user friendly and accessible. Robertson presented a visual sample of a model that the website committee is working on for all to see. Nancy Weld has been working on this project along with Bob Bergstrom. Weld would like committee members to check the website out for content and verify that it is accurate or provide correct content to her. Weld would appreciate it if committee members would do this expeditiously. All photos should be sent to Bergstrom.

Trail Maintenance: Pelletier, Fletcher, and Robertson

2. Pelletier and Fletcher reported on trail maintenance ongoing and needed after the recent ice storm. Pelletier reported that he is still collecting information from his trail maintainers. Anything above 12,000 feet had severe damage from the storm and some clearing has been done but it will be another month or so before all reports are in. Lower elevations do not appear to

have as much damage. There has been no damage reported at any shelters to date. A school in Northampton has indicated an interest in doing community service work with his committee to help with cleanup.

Fletcher stated that reports are still coming in as well for his trails. Everything South of Route 9 appears to be okay at this time but everything North of Route 9 will be assessed. New Hampshire people have done an initial survey and things are looking okay in their areas. A planning meeting scheduled was cancelled due to the ice storm.

Robertson reported severe damage at Noble View. At this time, you cannot walk or ski on the ski trails and people will need to be mobilized for April and May to help clear trails.

Levine suggested that Pelletier, Fletcher, and Robertson consider putting together flyers requesting help with trail clearing. These flyers could be distributed at the New Members Potluck scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2009.

Old Business

Job Descriptions Template: Levine plans to send the template out that Napolitano created on what a proper job description should look like. She would like all executive committee members to use this template when preparing their own job descriptions so there will be consistency in the format used.

Finalize Budget for 2009: Final budget figures for calendar year 2009 were reviewed. A recommendation was made to increase the subsidy for WFA training to \$85 for those who qualify for the subsidy. On a motion by Pelletier, seconded by Robertson the budget for calendar year 2009 was accepted unanimously with revisions. See attached budget.

Travel Reimbursement: There was much discussion on whether to continue to reimburse for travel but no decision was made on an amount to continue with so Levine will send out the current policy on travel reimbursement and put this item on the agenda for the next meeting in February.

Fall Gathering Update: Levine reported that she and Robertson are working together on a timeline and specific tasks list. When that is available, they will be asking for volunteers to help.

Committee Reports

Appalachian Trail: Pelletier

Pelletier reminded everyone that Saturday, January 31, 2009 is their volunteer annual gathering. He also reported that there are two new leaders on his committee....Don Fairbanks, Shelter Coordinator and Steve Schimpff, Tools Coordinator. His committee is also getting involved with Great Barrington Trails and Greenway.

Berkshire County Representative: Levine

Levine reported that Jim Wells will be leaving on a two year hike out West so she is looking for someone to fill his role as Berkshire County Representative.

Canoe and Kayak: Peterson

Peterson reported that she was very disappointed in the lack of help this year with the Deerfield River

Cleanup near Monroe Bridge so she is not excited about the prospects for this project for calendar year 2009. Some of the issues her committee is dealing with around this project include:

--lack of support from Zoar

--lots of heavy metals in the river and no machinery available to get it out

--lack of support from individuals with political connections to help with this project

Peterson reported that she had contacted Canadian Power to help and the new dam owners may be willing to assist with machinery to remove heavy metals but they do not want volunteers using their equipment due to issues with liability.

Lukas recommended that Peterson contact the Connecticut River Watershed Council for assistance with this project as they have lots of experience and resources for this kind of work.

Conservation: Lukas

Lukas reported that Cynthia Boetner will be the guest speaker at the February 4, 2009 monthly potluck and encouraged members to attend. Cynthia will be speaking on Invasive Plants: Why We Worry and What We Can Do. Lukas is also looking into rescheduling the Geology Field Trip that was cancelled last Fall.

Noble View: Robertson

Nothing to report.

Outings: Napolitano

Co-leaders are needed.

Trails: Fletcher

Fletcher reported that a planning meeting was held on January 13, 2009. They discussed MOU. The Senate is moving towards a cloture vote on Bill S22. He is in the process of forming a stewardship council to work with National Parks.

Training and Education: Fogarty

See attached report.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Napolitano to adjourn at 8:40 P.M., seconded by Druzisky, approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 6:30 PM at the People's Bank in Holyoke. Levine will send out instructions to gain access to this site.

Patricia A. Stevenson, Secretary

**Training and Education Update
January 14, 2009**

Prepared by Chris Fogarty

Leader Training, April 4 & 5 2009

- ⌚ Sharing facilities with Worcester at Camp Harrington, Boylston, MA.
- ⌚ Plan to offer training to Mohawk Hudson chapter.
- ⌚ Cost estimated to be \$350 total, \$250 for facility expenses, \$100 for food.

Leader Appreciation Day, July 11, 2009

- ⌚ Looking to rent pavilion at DAR again.
- ⌚ Would have leaders pay the \$5 parking fee to save on chapter's cost.

Fall 2009 Leader Training – November 7 & 8, 2009

- ⌚ This was the only date Gary had available for the fall/winter season.
- ⌚ Rate increased to \$280/weekend. Though we are negotiating that back to the \$250.
- ⌚ Will partner with the Worcester Chapter again.

Three Season Hiking Series May-Sept, 2009

- ⌚ I am working with the Worcester Chapter to develop a three season hiking series to develop participants' hiking abilities.
- ⌚ Looking to solicit Berkshire leaders for two tracks; Easy to Intermediate (walks to non-4,000ft mountains), and Intermediate to Advanced (non-4,000 ft mountains, above tree line and remote wilderness). I have three leaders for the Intermediate to Advanced section lined up.
- ⌚ Also looking for trainers and location for an informational session to be held in March. Preferably scheduled on a weeknight, for 2-3 hours. All informational materials provided by the Worcester chapter and the Berkshire T&E Committee.
- ⌚ Will have posting on web and Outdoors Mag starting in March.

Learn to Backpack Series May-Sept, 2009

- ⌚ Another joint venture with the Worcester Chapter to develop three season backpacking skills.
- ⌚ Will have the same format as Three Season Series.
- ⌚ Number of participants limited to about 10.
- ⌚ Looking for leaders to assist in leading trips. Leaders must have backpacking experience or substantial three season hiking leadership experience.
- ⌚ Will have posting on web and Outdoors Mag starting in March.

Other Training and Education Notes:

- ⌚ Rolled out the Co-leader evaluation form last week. All Fall 2008 attendees have the form. Spring 08 and Fall 07 attendees will have the form in the next week. Leader candidates will complete this form, mail it to the Outings Chair, who will distribute it to the Berkshire Chapter Leader Review Board. This board consists of Training and Education Chair, Outings Chair, OLDC Committee member, Berkshire Chapter Chair and one other member to be decided by the group.