

AMC Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee meeting minutes
Monday October 17, 2011 6:30pm

Baystate Health conference center, Whitney Ave, Holyoke

Present: David Sauriol, Pat Fletcher, Jon Hanauer, Deborah Levine, Sarah Long, Bob Bergstrom, Paxton Berardy, Eric Gove, Connie Peterson, Sabine Prather, Nora Hanke.

Excused:; Bill Fogel; Sonja Goodwin.

Call to order: 6:40pm. Dave read the AMC mission statement.

Approved: September, 2011 minutes approved w corrections.

Guests - none.

Committee Reports:

Appalachian Trail - Jim Pelletier
No report.

Berkshire Exchange - Jon Hanauer
Fall/winter issue is out.

Canoe and kayak – Connie Peterson, Charlie Camp

Whitewater – The annual Farmington River release in W Mass. allowed an event this past w/e. There were enthusiasts from various clubs who partook of the opportunity. To recoup facility fees (parking, changing and bathroom facilities, and camping space), compliance with payment of the \$2 parking fee needs to be pursued. Next w/e is the 2nd chance (to paddle and to pay)

Paxton expressed interest in being approved as a whitewater leader.

Committee members expressed interest in officially separating whitewater and quiet water subcommittees. Connie recommended that any discussion of possible changes reference the history of the current arrangement. Dave suggested that a separate meeting be arranged, to review the paddling subcommittee's organization. A motion was passed to form a subcommittee. Members will include Connie (and Dave hopes Charlie will also join). Paxton, Dave, and will be led by Sabine.

Conservation – Vacant

Sabine (chair emeritus) attended the Fall Gathering this past weekend representing conservation matters. At the gathering, she led a conservation hike.

She also met w an insurance agency that may be a helpful supporter for conservation-related matters. The (Westfield) Columbia rail trail planning could be a beneficiary, ditto for MassBike.

Mountaineering - Sarah Long

Rain caused a change of venue for a workshop, but due to lack of notification no one showed up.

W/e climbs continue. On Oct. 29th it will be costume-optional.

For the winter, Tues. night indoor climbing starts on November 8th, at the Central Rock Gym in Hadley (no charge).

Outings -Jon Hanauer

Deadline for Outdoors listings is 2 mos. in advance of publication date. Due to lack of reminders being sent out, there were no trips added.

The deadline for the Spring issue is the first week of January.

Publicity – Sabine Prather

Berkshire Bash (Nov. 5th) publicized on Facebook.

Sabine led a section hike on Appalachian Trail Day. She was disappointed that there were no takers.

She still needs photos for the Bash, and she will need to turn to Joy St. for material if local members don't come through right away.

Trails – Pat Fletcher

Roof is on the new cabin on National New England Scenic Trail in Northfield (On Sam Richardson's property). Windows and doors to be installed. It will be insulated, but have no stove or fire pit.

With Mt Tom Citizen's Advisory Committee, AMC is replacing a pedestrian-traffic bridge at Bray Lake next spring. It will be wheelchair-accessible. DCR engineers required some modifications on the design, raising the price of materials but forecast costs are within the grant allocation. Assembly will take place off site, this winter.

Training and education – Eric Gove

Annual fall leadership training occurs this month. So far no Berkshire Chapter members are signed up. In April there will be another training at Noble View. Eric hopes to publicize this extensively in W Mass., even amongst other outdoor clubs.

He has commissioned production of some club logo gear such as water (or gorp) bottles, and fleece clothing, as rewards/motivators for volunteering.

Treasurer – Sonja

No report.

Website- Bob Bergstrom

Bob has a member assistant in S Hadley, Roger Beer, who is helping w the server for a test website. Druppel, which runs on Linux, will allow password-protected access. For example, leaders may be granted special access. Content will become a topic of interest once this server is up and running.

Young members Paxton Berardy

Seeking but has not confirmed any new leaders.

There may be a belated party in November.

Vacant chairs: Berkshire County representative; Conservation; Family Programs; Membership; Nominating; Quiet Water.

Old business:

1. Chapter By-Laws Revision. 1 sentence was changed, to clarify a point that was generally understood. The ad hoc committee's recommendations were accepted unanimously.
2. Web page review.
3. Report on the concluded Fall Gathering. Longest discussion concerned financial matters. One chapter nearly lost many leaders over their new trip financial policy.
4. In January there will be a goodbye to the AMC president at the Annual Meeting at the JFK library in Cambridge.
5. New leader search continues.
6. Spring Fling April 27-29th will be held at Mohican Outdoor Center in NJ.
7. Berkshire Bash. Confirmed attending subcommittee members are Dave, Paxton, Deb, Sarah, and Connie is a maybe (who will find an alternate if need be).

New Business:

1. 2012 Budget. Dave will send out an email for excom. members to review and prepare responses for the next meeting (in January). A motion was passed that unless any change is requested, the current year budget is

continued.

2. New training subsidies. At present an active chapter trip leader is subsidized w \$90 for basic Wilderness First Aid courses. Eric proposes that support for active leaders seeking advanced trainings (such as that offered by Mountain Leadership School) also be provided, on a case by case basis. The excom would evaluate a subcommittee chair's recommendation. He seeks approval for a specific member's training this coming January. The group determined that pending determination of specific eligibility criteria, at this time any event before the next excom meeting can only be considered for possible reimbursed in future.,

Unfinished business:

Meeting adjourned at: 8:40pm.

Next ExCom meetings scheduled for Monday, January 23rd.