

A.M.C. BERKSHIRE CHAPTER

Executive Committee Meeting Draft Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2012

AMC's Mission

The Appalachian Mountain Club promotes the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of the Appalachian region.

We believe these resources have intrinsic worth and also provide recreational opportunities, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the region.

Because successful conservation depends on active engagement with the outdoors, we encourage people to experience, learn about, and appreciate the natural world.

Present: Paxton Berardy, Pat Fletcher, Sonja Goodwin, Jim Pelletier, Sabine Prather, Dave Sauriol, Deb Levine, Nora Hanke, Bob Bergstrom, Eric Gove, Connie Peterson; guests Roger Beer (working w Bob Bergstrom), Lin Pickle (seeking a new treasurer for trails committee)

Excused: Jon Hanauer, Sarah Long

Call to Order: 6:40 PM

Reading of the AMC Mission Statement by Dave

Introductions: Guests

Acceptance of Minutes: Last monthly meeting notes unanimously accepted.
Annual meeting notes accepted.

Committee reports

o **Treasurer:** Sonja Goodwin:

Funds in money market (\$11,025.10) and checking accounts (\$15,923.36) have grown modestly. Total balance remains approx. stable at \$26, 957.46.

Deb reported that “a good portion of [Berkshire chapter] money” is being held by the central office, in an account considered to be generating a better return. We do not have an accounting of those funds at present. Jim recommended Sonja contacts Roger Scholl.

o **Appalachian Trail:** Jim Pelletier

Fall activities wrapped up w AT Day. There were various hikes, some better attended (the biggest group was 12 hikers). The 10th annual volunteer gathering will be held on Saturday 1-28, at Mt Greylock visitor center. Included in the agenda are break-out sessions including some with emphasis on two partner groups: Great Barrington Trails Association and Trails to Every Classroom. The Chapter Youth Program and plans for its future will be discussed. Leadership group findings will be shared w volunteers. Recent self assessments will be shared and volunteers will assist with the development of an action plan. Leaders and volunteers will be matched to needs of the management plan.

During the meeting, it was decided that the current chapter Youth Program

Coordinator, Hal Petzhold, will be approached by Dave, requesting that he remain in his position.

2011 Audit completed and sent to Boston. Due to problems that had occurred, one of the Goose Pond cabin (volunteer) caretakers was not retained. He was irate and threatened to involve Joy St.

No budget change recommended, but Jim requested a \$700 (increased) contribution for this subcommittee's needs. Expenses inc. maintaining the above noted cabin, shelter or privy projects, maintenance, monitoring activities. A motion was proposed and passed to make this disbursement.

- Berkshire County Representative: Vacant

- Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer

Spring issue to be released late Feb. or early March.

- Canoe & Kayak: Connie Peterson, Charlie Camp (absent)

There are funds available to train an additional leader.

Whitewater: Connie reports Charlie is leaving to live on the West coast in the next few months. Deb proposed to recognise his contributions at an upcoming potluck meeting.

A member of the subcommittee is planning to resign.

Some second hand canoes and a kayak are being offered for sale.

There will be an interchapter canoe and kayak meeting at the 1-28 club wide meeting in Boston.

Comments were made about flooding related damage to VT, W Mass and other waterways in late August.

Quiet water: Sabine agreed to temporarily fill in as chair of this subcommittee. She is updating the chapter website's information inc. a discussion group which people can join. Sabine will moderate that discussion as there may be initiatives to solicit companions for paddling trips led by unofficial leaders (unapproved leaders).

On 1-9 she conducted a meeting of trip leaders. 3 couples each sought to have an account w Jon for trip proposals to be posted.

- Conservation: Vacant

- Family Programs: Vacant

- Membership: Vacant

- Mountaineering: Bill Fogel, Sarah Long

Sarah sent a report indicating the 12-20 annual trip planning went well. Winter Weds. night climbs going well.

- Noble View: Frank Evans

- Nominating: Vacant

- Outings: Jon Hanauer

Jon gives notice of his resignation effective November, 2012. He will remain the chapter trip-approver.

- Public Relations: Sabine Prather

- Trails: Pat Fletcher

Northfield cabin almost completed. Dedication and opening planned for sometime in the Spring (TBA). Use will require reservation, but adjacent tent platforms will be available on a first come basis.

Trail planning (adopters, other workers) are organised by Josh.

The New England Scenic Trail has been 95% cleared of the October storm damage. A work party of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club consisting of 19 people cleared sections 1 and 2. Other work to be performed in the spring inc. walkway elevation in an area habitually flooded by beavers.

- Training & Education: Eric Gove

March 3-4 Intro. to Backpacking will be held w Worcester chapter and will inc. a cycle touring component for the first time. Leaders from Worcester have signed up, Eric is seeking Berkshire Chapter volunteers too.

April 21-22 Leadership Training w Worcester chapter will be held at Noble View. Eric needs help for at least a few hours each of local chapter leaders. Eric is advertising widely for participants, inc. additional chapters and out of states. Dave's interest is mainly in gaining new local chapter leaders. There is no charge for training or Noble View lodging for an existing leader to get an update by attendance. Dave suggests that he and Eric present this opportunity on a local tv show, "MassAppeal".

June 8-10 2nd Annual Woostashire Extravaganza at Cardigan Lodge. There will be some form of entertainment. Eric thinks the event will sell out as it went so well last year. Reservations will be handled centrally (Boston).

There is a Spring Wilderness First Aid course, Eric was unsure of the dates.

- Website: Bob Bergstrom

Bob is pleased to have the new assistance of Roger Beer.

Joshua Surette, Trails Coordinator, sent some new info. He wanted NEST website trail info. changed. Pat feels the web info. about each section of the trail should remain as is. Bob prefers to work w Pat and defer to him for any proposed web trail descriptions. (Pat states the print guide will eventually be updated to reflect the trail's new name and status, and the website should be the main source of those trail descriptions.)

Content of the new website will include transferred information from the existing site and new material which will be the responsibility of each subcommittee to produce.

Dave, Deb and Eric are keen to see some sample pages and get the new site live.

- Young Members: Paxton Berardy

Paxton had 5 participants for a recent hike.

Though there are two new members qualified to lead, those people haven't yet led trips.

He will attend the Feb 25 Telluride Film Festival, 7-10 pm at Hampshire College. (He recommends interested parties arrive by 6:45 to get a seat.)

There is also the Banff Film Festival at Acadian Shop in Lenox on Feb 17th at 7:30pm, and also in Farmington, CT at the high school (a bigger venue).

Old Business

1. Web Page Review

2. Added Training Subsidies;

Eric reiterated he is interested in providing funding for people who have proven their commitment to the club's programs. He clarified that those members who complete leadership training and the required co leads can request compensation for their previous attendance at the leadership training.

New Business

1. Lin Pickle reported he is seeking a new treasurer for the trails committee. Dave Sauriol will sign on as second signature in place of Lin.

2. Chapter youth programs chair, Harold Petzold was inadvertently omitted from slate of elections at the annual meeting, Jim asked if Dave would approach him and that was agreed.

3. Open positions – Dave feels there is an urgent need to fill vacancies in Conservation, Membership, Nominating Committee, and the Chapter Youth Program. He would also like to get more active Trip Leaders. Since advertising for membership is primarily through Joy St, he would like to find out how their initial welcome information for new members could advertise these “opportunities”. He will also advertise in the chapter newsletter and announce it at the chapter potluck on March 24 at the American Legion in Hadley. Dave encourages Excom committee members to invite other chapter members to attend Excom members to increase interest amongst membership in filling existing vacancies, and to increase the no. of active trip leaders.

4. Deb is interested in finding a new venue for the annual chapter meeting, for some variety. He suggests Sabine consider other options for next fall.

5. Jim reported some Berkshire news: the state has issued a grant to obtain conservation rights for new parcels of land : Alfred area near NYS, Lanesboro and Cheshire (abutting southern part of Mt Greylock Reservation)
Berkshire wildlife tracking gp completed its training and have started to study private land in Dalton for its conservation importance and they have found some unique bear sign, amongst other wildlife information.

Unfinished business:

Should successful completion of club leadership training AND the required subsequent 3 successful co-leads be a requirement for all people seeking to become new trip leaders (even canoe and kayak)? (Existing trip leaders have been grandfathered in.)

Next meetings:

Monday, February 13th, 2012; Monday March 12th, 2012

Respectfully submitted

Nora E Hanke

1-29-12