

A.M.C. BERKSHIRE CHAPTER

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, June 11, 2012

AMC's Mission

Read by Bob: 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.

Call to Order: 6:35 PM

Acceptance of Minutes: All

Treasurer's Report: Sonja Goodwin -

Savings (5-7-12) \$11,052.54

Checking (5-7-12) \$17,280.62

-> TOTAL \$28,333.16

Committee reports- ½ hour

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier (excused)

The trickle of northbound thru hikers is turning into a steady flow as we approach prime hiking season. Spring trail cleanup was completed without too much effort due to the easy winter and the beaver problem south of Blotz Rd in Washington seems to have resolved itself for the time being as the beaver are gone and the dam has failed. Upper Goose Pond cabin was opened and a full slate of caretakers is lined up to cover duties there. We completed a new kiosk at the south end of Dalton with the enthusiastic participation of the young folks from Craneville Elementary School and their teachers and parents. Try: http://animoto.com/play/TdcddCfAvfifSVvz9h0aXQ?utm_content=main_link for a neat slide show of the whole affair. The Hinsdale Wind project reached a milestone with the removal of the test tower after a year's worth of data gathering. We visited Warner Hill with Heather Clish 3 days ago to give her a first-hand exposure to what we would be fighting against. We left with follow-up activities to continue preparations for such an eventuality. The developer has until late this year to file a report with the state in order to get the grant monies to pay for the study.

Lastly, Becky Barnes has been promoted and now has greatly expanded responsibilities and her former post as Trails Coordinator is vacant. We have sent DCR

management a letter requesting the prompt filling of the post and recommended the same to the DCR Stewardship Council at their meeting 3 days ago.

Berkshire County Representative: Vacant

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer (excused) - no report.

Canoe & Kayak: Connie Peterson, Sabine Prather (latter excused)

There are still routes that can't be paddled due to last summer's flooding.

On June 2nd, a possible new paddle leader, Charlie Murray, co-led a paddle down the Battenkill in Vermont. Sabine thinks he will be a great asset to the leaders, as he plans to lead more Class 1/2 trips down the Housatonic and Farmington, etc. He'll need one more co-lead and a discussion with Connie before becoming official. Brent Pitcher is also doing his co-leads this summer, so we'll be up to 10 Quietwater leaders.

Conservation: Vacant (interim Sabine Prather; excused)

There are two Conservation events this June, as part of AMC Green June initiative - a screening of Carbon Nation at the Westfield Athenaeum on June 20th, in collaboration with Westfield Transition, and an interactive conversation using online tools on reducing carbon footprint at Nora's on June 26th. I've posted these on the trip listings, on the AMC Berkshire website, and the AMC Berkshire Facebook page

Sabine posted the trail maintenance day as part of National Trails Day on AMC Berkshire and the Facebook page.

Family Programs: Vacant

Membership: Vacant

Mountaineering: Bill Fogel, Sarah Long

There was another climbing course this spring. Recent Weds. night climbs mainly canceled due to rain/storms. A bunch of new women are planning to meet for some instruction in July. Day Acheson is taking over from Bill as co-lead and will attend the July Excom meeting.

Noble View: Frank Evans - no report.

Nominating: Vacant

Outings: Jon Hanauer (excused) - no report.

Public Relations: Sabine Prather (excused)

At the last meeting, I had hoped the group got my e-mail from afar regarding the new tabletop displays AMC is preparing, but I don't think you did. It was a very exciting

presentation (that happened at the Chapter Retreat after Dave had to leave). They had sample mini-marketers with some beautiful photos, and they will be wonderful to have for Club Days or anywhere AMC plans to have a tabletop exhibit. The photos are already set, but each chapter had an opportunity to submit three bullets for the center display. I sent a couple drafts to Dave as well as Joy Street - here they are:

- * Activities in the Berkshires & Pioneer Valley - hike, paddle, snowshoe, more.
- * Noble View Outdoor Center, beautiful self-service cabins & trails in the Berkshires
- * Fun social events, leadership opportunities and volunteer trail days

If you approve, these will be part of the new mini-marketers.

Trails: Pat Fletcher

The Northfield Cabin (on the New England National Scenic Trail) was officially dedicated June 3. Richardson-Zlogar Cabin. Congressman Olver attended. There are some aspects of the project that are not complete: sanitation; tent platforms.

The committee filed a request in Holyoke for rebuild of the Bray Lake bridge on Mt Tom. This falls under wetlands regulations. A path will link the bridge with the accessible trail. Bridge work has been moved forward to August.

A request was made by a property owner to relocate a Section 18 of the NENST. Adjacent DCR land is being sought. However DCR wants abutting property owners to give written permission. Parts of the trail over the border in NH have been damaged by ATV users.

Training & Education: Eric Gove - no report.

Website: Bob Bergstrom

Bob is meeting w Josh Surette (sp.) re the chapter website and linking to his New England National Scenic Trail site. That includes an interactive map which Bob likes. Dave agrees with the linkage. Dave also suggests that Bob individually email each committee chair requesting they provide standardised information for the chapter website. He would like Bob to provide us w a proposed ready-to-go website for approval at the next meeting. Bob thinks changes will be made before and after any go live date.

Young Members: Paxton Berardy - no report.

Old Business

1. Meeting locations July 9 meeting at Noble View from 6:30pm. Gary Forish will attend. No meeting in August. Sept. 10 meeting at Deb Levine's in Holyoke (11 Park

Avenue). Pat will look into offering his home for October, and Dave offers Sabine's in Westfield as a back up (!).

2. Open XC positions/leader recruitment - Dave implores Excom members to recruit individuals for open positions. Outings is the most critical. Deb suggests Outings become a committee and will meet with Dave and Eric and Jon re same.

New Business

1. Berkshire Bash November 3 - Sabine has a location (Summit View on Rt 5) and is working on a speaker.

2. Noble View barn renovation funding - Gary provided an estimated cost to renovate this old building into a meeting space as \$110,000. The Excom proposes making an unspecified significant donation for this project. We would like to seek funds from Worcester and other state chapters.

Meeting adjourned 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted

Nora E Hanke