

## **A.M.C. BERKSHIRE CHAPTER**

Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, July 9th, 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: Gary Forish, Sabine Prather, Pat Fletcher, Jon Hanauer, Jim Pelletier, Sarah Long, Bill Fogel, Deb Levine, Nora Hanke.

**Call to Order:** 6:45 PM

**Reading of the AMC Mission:** ; Nora Hanke

**Acceptance of Minutes:** Corrections need to be made.

**Announcements:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sonja Goodwin

None.

Committee reports

**Appalachian Trail:** Jim Pelletier

This year Berkshire Chapter web page has a link to an AT webpage.

Thru hikers are passing through Mass in large numbers at this point. The trail is in good shape and we've had essentially no weather related problems aside from the fact that the dry weather is starting to affect our marginal water supplies. AMC and DCR Ridge Runners are on patrol and dealing with the usual problems. Projects have been largely successful with the completion of the roof for the shelter and privy at Noepel, brushing at Becket and Walling mountains and south of Cheshire; delivery of a bear box to the Leonard shelter (just in time it would seem as a non to shy bear has been hanging out in the area) and replacement of the sign at the entrance to the channel leading to Upper Goose Pond. Next up this week is delivery of a bear box and picnic table to the Crystal Mtn site. Several open project dates in the next 6 weeks are being filled in.

Discussions with the New England Wildflower Society on the subject of Natural Heritage Monitoring have led to a better understanding of what each of us is doing, why and the overlap involved. The next step is to engage the NPS and ATC in the conversation before discussion of changes of respective responsibilities.

The 2 leaders for the AT Committee who do not have AMC memberships have agreed to join so that they can continue to lead projects. Projects with youth groups under our CYP have slowed but we have a bog bridge project in the works with a BSA troop from New York. We have not moved ahead with the Berkshire Trails Center due to the press of seasonal work. I expect this to once again make progress this fall. Lastly, planning for our AT Day hikes is underway.

**Berkshire Exchange:** Jon Hanauer

Summer issue should be completed in 2 weeks or so. Mail version expected shortly thereafter. Fall issue submissions deadline August 1.

**Canoe & Kayak:** Connie Peterson –

Sabine reports that a member named Charlie Murray needs to hear from Connie for final approval. He may have completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> co-lead in June. Rafting and other quiet water trips scheduled and happening this summer. There was also a sea kayaking trip. Once approved, Charlie may lead a fall quietwater trip.

**Conservation:** Vacant

“Green June” conservation events were variably attended. The Conservation goal from the Chapter Retreat was for committees to add a Conservation Message, during a hike, mountaineering, AT, etc. event. Committees will report during September meeting.

Mountaineering: Bill Fogel, Sarah Long

Bill says that 18 members went through the various June trainings. This month there have been some climbs which went well. There are 3 newly trained leaders. A previous leader has returned to leading. Bill continues to seek a replacement for himself (he wanted to step down in Feb).

Josh Suarett contacted the committee to provide a climbing event for the teens of the Mt Tom Ridgerunners group. The event has been arranged for July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Noble View: Gary Forish standing in for Frank Evans -

Gary reports that it looks like the facility will break even financially this year, primarily due to first responder courses. But it is a challenge and increasing facility over night use would improve the bottom line. Rates are being standardised and notices sent out to other regional chapters. Joy St requires monthly reports.

There haven't been any inquiries for a proposed multi day August family event.

Noble View is hiring a naturalist for one day a month, starting this summer. Gary seeks names and contact information for proposed naturalists.

Noble view lacks a treasurer. Gary states another chapter could provide someone in this role, and that person could even “tele-commute”.

Nominating: Vacant

Outings: Jon Hanauer

Recently Jon has been getting more notifications for trip postings.

He is advocating for Rebecca Budaj who requested compensation for her Wilderness First Responder course. This request was approved but the funds were not disbursed. Jon will send an email to Sonja and Eric, w a copy to Dave.

Public Relations: Sabine Prather –

Sabine has made several event and information postings on Facebook and now has 110 followers. Anyone who “Likes” the page can post to it.

Trails: Pat Fletcher

On August 2 Pat plans to start work on the Lake Bray, Mt Tom bridge. Initially there will be deconstruction of the existing bridge. He aims to finish the job by the end of the month. DCR is extending the existing handicapped trail (“stone dust”).

In Southwick on the NET Pat continues to mow around the parking area and kiosk.

The Southwick conservation commission has had objections related to the NET bog bridge repair and construction. They are interested in the composition of all building materials.

A photographer has been commissioned to make a panoramic image of the NET. This will be for a book and other advertisement of the NET.

He would like to eventually provide a privy for the Northfield Cabin, but that needs funding and approvals.

A NH co. called Tamarack will be developing a webpage for the NET. Tamarack is working w Bog Bergstrom to link with the chapter webpage.

A new property owner in Warwick seeks relocation of the trail away from their parcel. DCR needs to approve a new loop around that parcel before it is constructed.

DCR needs to get back to us re a relocation in the Quabbin area.

Training & Education: Eric Gove- absent.

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Website: Bob Bergstrom – absent

Young Members: Paxton Berardy – absent

Youth coordinator Hal Petzold – no report

Empty positions: Berkshire County Representative; Conservation; Family.

Old Business

1. Correction to last month's minutes: There was a discussion of the possibility of combining Outings, Education and Training in one committee, but more than one person could still be responsible for the aspects separately.

2 add members present to meeting notes.

#### New Business

Open positions – Jim proposes closing the empty positions, which can be re opened whenever an interested party presents themselves. Group agreed to vote on this matter at the next meeting.

Berkshire Bash planning update: Sabine reports that payment is needed now for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> event. Deb passed on that historically the venue has waived a penalty charge if their drinks min. charges are not met. Sabine will d/w Summit View. Sabine seeks suggestions for speakers. She will provide the options at the Sept. meeting.

Next meeting: Sept. 10 at Deb's at 11 Park Ave, Holyoke.

October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting: Pat Fletcher's, Westfield.

•2 Meeting adjourned 8:35pm.