

Present: Sabine Prather, Pat Fletcher, Sonja Goodwin, Jim Pelletier, Jon Hanauer, Sarah Long, Dave Sauriol, Heather Wyman

Absent: Nora Hanke, Frank Evans, Paxton Berardy, Connie Peterson, Wayne Rodrigues

Excused: Bob Bergstrom

Call to Order: 6:44 PM

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes of the May 2013 meeting were accepted as presented unanimously.

Announcements:

Treasurer's Report: As of 6/28/13, \$11,073.51 in savings, \$21,217.41 in checking. No disbursement from the endowments funds has been received as yet. There was discussion about donations being sent to chapter funds. Should thank-you notes be sent? Perhaps over a certain dollar amount. Several donors are being thanked in the upcoming newsletter issue. No action taken at this time.

Committee reports

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier reported that through hikers northbound from Georgia have started to pass through Mass in volume as well as a good compliment of groups and long section hikers. Thus far there have been no significant problems with hikers. Trail conditions have been very muddy due to the incessant rain and the Kellogg Rd to Rt. 7 section was underwater and impassable for about a week. An outbreak of norovirus among some northbound hikers in the south does not appear to have affected us, but we are preparing by beefing up preventive measures.

Our project season has continued with good to mediocre participation. Projects completed include: natural heritage monitoring in several locations, invasives removal, bog bridge installations and repairs and blowdown removals. Check out our blog (<http://massatprojects.blogspot.com/>) for some interesting reports on our projects. National Trails Day (June 1st) we lead 3 projects out of the Kellogg Conservation Center with a short hike to Jug End and a picnic after the project work. The bigger projects at Upper Goose Pond cabin and in the Housatonic river valley will start in late July. The AMC's Berkshire Teen Trail Crews have started, completing their first week of fieldwork earlier today on the AT on the north side of Upper Goose Pond. Our Eagle Scout candidate project at Merry Brook has not moved forward but we are working with a 2nd Eagle Scout candidate on a project to install bog bridging in a long wet section of the AT south of the Kay Wood shelter. Students and parents from the Craneville School in Dalton painted the kiosk they installed with our support last year. The Mass MOU remains dormant, despite my efforts. Lastly, the AMC and DCR Ridge Runners are now in the field providing valuable info service and we have 2 volunteer Ridge Runners who will deploy in the field starting July 4th and into the weekend.

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer - Have been editing and formatting Summer issue, anticipate sending out in late July.

Canoe & Kayak: Connie Peterson absent, no report

Conservation: Sabine Prather – Continued to post monthly conservation messages, combined with trails, paddling and family interests, on Facebook.

Family Programs: Heather is having a monthly In your Backyard hiking series, with the second scheduled at Noble View this weekend. Perhaps AMC should partner with the Macaroni Group? She will find more information about this.

Membership: Vacant, no report.

Mountaineering: The Mountaineering Committee has finished up our spring courses with an Anchors Course on June 23rd. We have many trips planned for this summer. Our next planning meeting is Wednesday August 28th.

Noble View: Frank Evans absent, no report.

Outings: Jon Hanauer – held a fairly successful appreciation and planning dinner at Northampton Brewery on June 16th. Nine leaders planned 10-15 new trips that have been entered, with options for new co-leaders to join. No word from Wayne R. on who needs co-leads for qualification.

Public Relations: Sabine Prather – Continue to update Facebook with AMC events and conservation content, as well as publicizing events held by partner organizations such as Connecticut River Watershed Council and Westfield River Watershed Association. Continue to send e-mail blasts monthly.

Trails: Pat Fletcher - There was a well attended Dedication and hike of the new section of the NET at Quabbin on June 1st at the Quabbin Visitors center. Heather Clish, John Olver, and John Judge were present. The new website is out, with participation from MA and CT. Each town on the NET will have committees that will have interaction on the website. The first Town Committee meeting will be on July 24 in Southwick. The Kapuchin Brook bridge repair is in process.

Training & Education: Wayne Rodrigues absent, no report

Website: Bob Bergstrom absent, no report

Young Members: Paxton Berardy absent, no report.

Old Business

Brief overview from Chapter Retreat on how to engage volunteers, with further discussion noted below.

New Business

1. Leadership Gathering – Reminder about the \$20 Leadership Training on 9/21-22 “Sharing Best Practices to Develop, Grow and Retain High Quality Leaders”. Training will be held at Noble View and cost includes lodging. Jon will e-mail leaders about this, and the event will be mentioned in upcoming e-mail blast with contact info.
2. Young Member funding for participation; all chapters received request from Colleen Yout about subsidizing a young member for the Retreat in September. ExComm agreed to fund 50% of cost; Sabine will follow up with Colleen.
3. Chapter Archives: it was agreed to store archives from Gary Forish (Noble View) and Mountaineering at Joy Street. Mountaineering will discuss further with archivist.
4. Volunteer engagement continued; members discussed possible ways to encourage members to participate and lead. Open positions on the ExComm have been added to the activity listings and monthly e-mail blasts ask for help. Members talked about recognizing participation

with rewards such as fleece vests, an overnight stay, certificates. One idea was to survey members on what they would like to see. After some discussion, Jim Pelletier suggested that the most effective way to involve people has been face-to-face and to focus on that. So discussion turned to trying a monthly meet-and-greet at various locations in the Pioneer Valley and Berkshires. The first meeting will be On July 29th at the Agawam Public Library. Pat Fletcher and Sabine Prather will attend, and refreshments will be available.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next meeting: July 23 at Noble View