

**AMC Berkshire Chapter
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday February 19, 2013**

Called to order 6:38pm

Present:

Sabine Prather; Wayne Rodrigues; Pat Fletcher; Sonja Goodwin; Jon Hanauer; Sarah Long; Jim Pelletier; Paxton Berardy; Bob Bergstrom; Nora Hanke.

Excused: Dave Sauriol

Announcements:

DCR public meeting takes place this week, and Pat Fletcher plans to attend (Sabine would like to but is unable to do so).

This coming Saturday is the 5 College Outdoor Festival. In the evening there will be the annual Telluride film festival. Paxton plans to attend and to publicize the club.

Jon has found some Berkshire Chapter equipment in his possession. Donna Walters may have given snowshoes to Dave before she left the state.

Sabine reminds committee members that they can be reimbursed for attendance at meetings such as club wide summits.

Treasurer's report:

Savings account balance \$11,071.69

Checking account balance \$18,197.97

TOTAL balance \$29,269.66

Committee Reports

Appalachian Trail – Jim Pelletier:

Our 11th annual Volunteer Gathering was held Jan 19th with about 50 volunteers participating. Our focus this year was on strengthening our Ridge Runner programs and our emerging Group Outreach program. We also held our usual complement of breakout sessions with good participation. Thanks to Sabine for her participation in this event. The new location (DCR's South Mountain Headquarters) proved to be a better venue than the location we've used in the past. Two of our members participated in the Inter-Chapter Trails Committee Meeting on Jan 26th with good exchange of info and ideas. AMC management has hired Alice Webber for the SNE Regional Trails Supervisor position vacant since November of last year. Alice comes to us from the Maine Conservation Corps and will be starting on Feb 25th. Our 2013 Project Planning meeting was held in early Feb and a draft project schedule is out for review. I anticipate we will approve this schedule at our next Committee meeting on March 4th. Several projects require other

reviews or approvals (minor reroute on East Mtn, minor reroute south of Blotz Rd, bridge replacement north of Rt 7), and paperwork is out for these reviews/approvals.

Followup with Roger Scholl on possible use of endowment funds has revealed there will be a change in how these funds are used. The Goose Pond Cabin needs a new roof, and there are un-disbursed funds available. Mohhekenuck Fund is specifically for that cabin's upkeep. The Jack Cysz Fund is also for any AT maintenance activities. In March an audit of club wide funds should be complete and disbursement should then be forthcoming. Sabine or Sonja should be notified soon.

As we approach the end of winter and wrap up our planning for the upcoming season, I'm excited about the opportunities we have for strengthening our stewardship of the AT in Massachusetts. While we continue to anchor our efforts with solid trail maintenance and land monitoring efforts, we will: engage in working with Alice as she takes on her new responsibilities; work with Adam Brown to utilize the new field clearing equipment ATC has procured; explore protection of the Hottle-Fahey forest in Hinsdale previously under option as a wind farm site; develop our Group Outreach program; develop invasives removal capabilities as part of our Natural Heritage program. There are many more initiatives our volunteers are engaged in, too numerous to mention!

Berkshire Exchange – Jon Hanauer:

Spring Newsletter should be delivered to the printer in the next week and a half. It will be available in early March, before the Spring Potluck.

Canoe and Kayak – Connie (absent), Sabine:

There was a Paddle Committee meeting on 2/13. Last year, three boats were sold for \$100 apiece. A whitewater canoe is still for sale for \$300. There will be whitewater rafting and kayaking this summer, but there will be access issues due to the closing of Monroe Bridge on the Deerfield River. The whitewater and quietwater group have listservs to remind folks of upcoming trips; there will be a new whitewater coordinator this year.

Since the Connecticut River has been designated the first national "blueway", the committee would like to connect with other organizations to promote its new status. Due to dam relicensing agreements currently being worked on, there should be new campgrounds, put-ins and take-outs, and perhaps shuttles, to further promote the river corridor's recreational use. The Ferry Tales deadline is early March and it will be published shortly.

The Interchapter Paddle committee plans have a joint cookout this summer. Wayne R. would like to coordinate training opportunities for paddlers; he and Connie will correspond soon.

Quiet water meeting was postponed to early March due to bad weather.

Conservation – Sabine:

Massachusetts legislators passed the greenhouse gas initiative, agreeing to reduce the cap on greenhouse gas emissions by 45%.

The proposed budget does allow for some parks to re-open.

Sabine passed out a draft trailhead talk about conservation developed by Faith Salter and the Clubwide Conservation Committee. They have also developed a draft section for leadership training devoted to conservation.

Climbing – Sarah:

Ski trips have been held and continue through the winter season. There have been moonlight ski trips at Notchview.

Spring trainings have been scheduled, and there is a workday in April, and another planning meeting.

Outings – Jon Hanauer:

A couple of co-leaders are ready to advance to leader status. Wayne is reviewing the applications.

Public Relations – Sabine

Facebook and website updates and event invitations continue. Prepared a press release for the Marion Stoddart event in March.

Trails – Pat Fletcher:

Because archeologists have approved the route, the Quabbin relocation has now been flagged. Two bridges need to be built before National Trails Day (June 1st).

Training and Education – Wayne:

Outdoor Leadership Development meeting attended, service dogs were defined. Trip leaders should understand and accept participation of service dogs on club outings.

However, unreasonable accommodations do not need to be provided.

There may be more trip “incidents” than are reported, based on data received by Joy St. Reporting procedures need to be reviewed and leaders encouraged to report incidents.

Rick Silverberg is the new director and Wayne is a new volunteer on the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee. There will be a fifth pillar for Vision 2020 specifically for leadership.

There is a new AMC intranet (Summit) that requires a password but allows leaders to access material for training, presentations, etc. Wayne will provide more information as he becomes familiar with it.

In March there will be a Wilderness First Aid course that Wayne will teach.

There is an April leadership training with seven local participants going to Worcester. Mohawk-Hudson chapter members may also attend (their chapter no longer conducts them).

The fall training this year will also be in Worcester. In Spring 2014 there will be a leadership training at Noble View.

Mountain Leadership School has June and August programs based at the Highland Center. Wayne hopes to encourage local leaders to attend.

Ed Poirier of Narragansett Chapter has offered to perform a map and compass program at Noble View this spring.

In September there will be a “train the leaders” training, and Wayne will attend.

Website – Bob:

Bob spoke w Roger Beer to fill out the site. Bob and Sabine plan to work on persisting blank pages.

Bob is working on a resource for group leaders to assess availability at AT facilities.

Young members – Paxton:

No report.

New Business

2013 budget-

Sabine amended and combined some of the categories. Suggestions were taken and incorporated.

Scholarships (for advanced training) and subsidies (for SOLO WFA)–

Jon worked on documents to clarify requirements and processes. Currently, eligibility requires having been an active volunteer and/or trip leader in the preceding or following year (resp.). Jim suggests that applications for scholarships or compensation go through the relevant chair, and not be awarded until eligibility has been met.

Wayne plans to review documents that already exist and see if the information can be amalgamated and simplified.

Jon suggests a total budget of approx. \$1,500-\$2,000 for this year.

March Member Potluck –

Information is on the website and Facebook page. Sabine will send an email blast reminder, including what to bring according to last names.

Next meetings: March 12th, and April 23rd in W Springfield.

Adjourned 8:36pm.