

**AMC BERKSHIRE CHAPTER – Executive Committee Virtual Meeting
Tuesday March 25, 2014**

Present: Sabine Prather, Pat Fletcher, Sonja Goodwin, Grace Ferrante, Sarah Long, Jim Pelletier, Wayne Rodrigues, Connie Peterson

Absent: Bob Bergstrom, Steph Burton-Harris, Frank Evans, Jon Hanauer, Jim Helems, Dave Sauriol, Peter Theime, Heather Wyman

Excused: Roger Beer

Call to Order: 6:34 PM

Reading of the AMC Mission was dispensed with in the interests of time.

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes of the Tuesday February 5, 2014 meeting were distributed by email. They were unanimously accepted.

Announcements:

1. GoToMeeting : We are using this web-hosted service for the meeting. Because this is a paid service, Joy Street is allowing Berkshire Chapter to use their account this time. In the future we hope to share a chapter version of GoToMeeting with other chapters.
2. Noble View Improvements: Gary Forish has plans to renovate the barn and build an education center. There is a capital campaign to cover the cost being coordinated by Joy Street. Currently Joy Street is doing feasibility studies for the campaign, which will fund not only Noble View but other AMC projects as well. This year chapters are not able to contribute to the fund, even though they might like to show their support. Chapters are being encouraged by Joy Street to focus on building up their chapters this year, and possibly they will be able to contribute to Noble View on other projects or another time.
3. Gear Commons: This is a company based in the Boston area that allows individuals to share their outdoor gear for a small fee. They are looking to expand to western MA and other states. This could prove a valuable service for paddling sports, mountaineering, and backpacking for our members.

Treasurer's Report:

Sonja Goodwin submitted the report. As of 3/24/14, there is \$\$11,077.66 in savings and \$21,722.18 in checking, totaling \$32,799.84.

Sonja is stepping down as Treasurer and she will be leaving the area in June. We thank her for doing a wonderful job as treasurer over the last few years. Grace Ferrante will assume the position of Treasurer.

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Committee Reports:

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier (email)

Our season's Project List has been developed, approved and issued. It can be viewed at: (<http://tinyurl.com/2014atprojects>). The UGP Cabin Caretaker schedule for the season has been issued. A telephone conference with our partners involved in updating our MOU with Massachusetts was held and a way forward agreed on. The next milestone is a revised DRAFT document by mid April. We participated in the New England Regional Partnership Meeting in Hanover last Saturday. We have approval for and are engaged in the planning of a service project with a group of 10 10th graders from the Boston Collegiate Charter School on May 16th under the auspices of our Chapter Youth Program. This group will be camping at Beartown State Forest and their service project will be on the AT in that area. Our first major project of the season is two days of hazard tree removals at Upper Goose Pond in mid April. Maintainers will be getting out and clearing their trail sections as soon as the snow melts (a very slow process so far this spring) and blowdown blitzes will start in early May. Also, we are holding a Sawyer Recertification in early May in partnership with the ATC and our fellow trail maintainers of the CT Chapter of the AMC at the Kellogg Conservation Center. Our next AT Committee meeting is scheduled for May 5th and this will be our last meeting until early September.

Paddling: Connie Peterson

Paddling season has started! The scheduling is being coordinated. Training will take place. "Ferry Tales" newsletter is going digital this year. The release schedule for the Deerfield Monroe Bridge and Zoar Gap sections will be listed in the newsletter. There should be a sea-kayaking rescue workshop in June. The evaluation of leaders is progressing and will be submitted shortly.

Mountaineering: Sarah Long (Ingrid Nelson absent)

The season has not started yet. A planning meeting will take place April 1st. A work party with the Trustees of the Reservations will be April 19 at Chapel Ledges.

Outings: Jim Helems absent

Trails: Pat Fletcher

Josh is setting the NET trail work schedule and it will be posted on the NET webpage (www.newenglandtrails.org). Work at Rising Corner, the southern MA terminus of the trail, is in process with wood duck boxes being set up for the season. There were lots of hatchings last year, and the bog bridging will be valuable for the kiddies.

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Education: Wayne Rodrigues

Leadership Training went well with 18 participants, 16 from Berkshire, one from NY/NJ, and one from Connecticut. We anticipate four new leaders for the Berkshire Chapter and they will be setting up their co-leads to get underway. Chris Fogarty brought a white board and Nalgene bottles that say “Berkshire Leader” on them. Wilderness First Aid sessions will be held in April and May.

Website: Bob Bergstrom absent

Conservation: Peter Theime absent

Membership: Steph Burton-Harris absent

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer absent

Family Programs: Heather Wyman absent

Noble View: Frank Evans absent

Old Business:

1. Budget. The budget was sent out and there was a question about why \$1,000 was needed for training and education and \$2,000 for scholarships. The training and education will include a map and compass course, and the scholarships are for recertifications in Wilderness First Aid. There are plans to do more programs and have people take more training. The budget was accepted.
2. Meet Ups. We want to get Meet Ups for outings going, but so far Outings and Membership have not set it up. Chapter Chair would like help to get this going. The annual cost is \$145, which is budgeted.
3. Storage Facility Rental was mentioned. No discussion or action.
4. Canoe-Kayak Trailer purchase was mentioned also, but no discussion took place.
5. The Potluck. The speaker, Russ Cohen, has a flash drive for his presentation. Jim Pelletier volunteered to bring his laptop. Sabine has a book, hat, and some patches to raffle, and she will shop for more raffle items. Volunteers will be recognized. Signage: Sabine asked about a sign we used to have to direct people to the correct building at Genesis. No one knows where the sign is now. There will be a list of upcoming trips and events. Grace and Sarah volunteered to staff the registration table.
6. Committee chairs. We haven’t heard from several chairs, and we will be contacting them.

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New Business:

1. Ad-hoc nominating committee. Sabine is asking for volunteers to form a committee to find a new Chapter Chair to replace her when her term ends in November.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Next meeting will be either April 22 or April 23 in West Springfield. Sabine will do a Doodle Poll to determine the best date for everyone.