

A.M.C. BERKSHIRE CHAPTER - Executive Committee Retreat
Monday, January 7, 2019

Present: Sarah Armour, Roger Beer, Brant Cheikes, Nicole Dewberry, Frank Evans, Bill Fogel, Martin Mahoney, Kathryn Martin, Charles Murray, Chris Neil, Jan Alicia Nettler, Janine Papesh, Heather Wyman

Absent: Cody Andrews, Robert Cherdack, Marvin Davenport, Dana Gronbeck, Tricia Hanrahan, Jim Pelletier

Call to Order: 6:40 pm

Acceptance of Minutes: Minutes for December 2018 planning meeting were accepted, pending receipt of the budget in Excel form.

Vacant Positions:

Margo Chapski has resigned from the Executive Committee and Family Programs. Currently the following positions need to be filled: Vice Chair, Social Events/Membership Chair, and Family Programs.

The committee discussed ways to attract new volunteers to take these positions and how to operate while the positions are open. The chapter communications can broadcast the need for people and everyone should remember to mention the openings at activities and gatherings of members. Jan offered to lead the search.

In the near term there is a need to address coming social events. Martin has been contacted by Historic Northampton to cosponsor an event, tentatively on February 22, Glorious Mountain Days. In the absence of a Social Chair Sarah offered to carry this opportunity forward.

The chapter Bash is scheduled the first Sunday in November, the 3rd. It will be at the same facility as the 2018 Bash. The committee discussed some possibilities for a speaker, including a person who hiked the Pacific Crest Trail. Jan offered to start the planning and preparations.

The Outdoor Festival is scheduled in September. Martin offered to help locate a speaker. Any suggestions should be directed to him.

The committee also discussed how to replace the chair for Family Programs. There are a few leaders that might be willing to assume the role.

Excess Reserves Task Force:

Brant reported that he has been collecting all relevant documents and plans to begin analyzing them with the task force. This will allow them to develop their recommendations.

Berkshire Exchange:

It was announced that Cody Andrews, who was unable to attend, will be reviving the Berkshire Exchange.

Chapter E-mail aliases and inboxes:

Brant has been cleaning up the chapter inboxes and aliases. Some are obsolete or incorrect. He requests that Executive Committee members review the lists he distributed and feed any corrections back to him.

Grinspoon Foundation Report:

Martin will be submitting the report soon.

Leader and WFA Reimbursement:

Bill Fogel suggested that going forward reimbursements simply be approved by him as Training and Education Chair rather than having the Executive Committee do each approval. The Executive Committee agreed to this process.

Annual Report:

Most reports have been submitted already. The reports that remain outstanding are:

Chapter Chair
Communications
Social/Membership
Website

Sarah and Martin will be submitting their respective reports shortly. The Website section is included with communications. Roger ask Bess if she would do the Social/Membership section.

2018 Meetings:

The meetings and food plan for 2018 are as follows:

January 7 – Rockridge, Kathy brings food
February 4 – Rockridge, Nicole brings food
March 4 - Berkshires at restaurant (TBD)
April – no meeting
May 6 – Rockridge, Martin brings food

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June 3 - Rockridge, Tricia brings food

July - no meeting

August - TBD, Charlie will organize

September 9 (second Monday), Rockridge, Janine and Brant bring food

October 7 - Rockridge, Bill brings food

November - no meeting (Berkshire Bash)

December 7 - retreat at Noble View

Action Items:

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Next regular meeting: Monday, February 4 at the Rockridge in Northampton at 6:30 pm. Nicole agreed to bring food since Margo resigned from the committee.

Committee reports and Web Updates

Report of the Chair: Martin Mahoney – no report

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier

It's been relatively quiet in the last couple of months, but not entirely so. Gathering the last of our volunteers 2018 hours, initial planning for next year, some new folks taking on leadership posts and dealing with deer stands & hunting where not allowed are the high points. Our near final tally of 2018 volunteer hours is 8156 hours. Nancy Gonter, a new volunteer, has taken on the Group Outreach Coordinator role. Russ Skelton has taken on the Southern Maintainer Coordinator role in addition to his trail maintainer assignment. We are still looking for someone to take on the Corridor Protection Coordinator role and the Chair role. Early next week I will be assuming the role of our Resource Protection Coordinator from Steve Smith who is retiring from this role. Coming up in the new year our annual Volunteer Gathering will be Feb 2nd hosted by the Great Barrington Trails organization.

Berkshire Exchange: no report

Bicycling: Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh

January 2019

- October 20, 2018 - Janine and Brant along with Liz and Sean (AMC Bike Trip Leaders) an AMC President's Society Bicycle Ride, 20 miles with lunch and beer social following. Identified a few new possible riders for our Berkshire group.
- November 4, 2018- Janine and Brant attended the annual AMC Berkshire Chapter Bash event at the Hadley Farms Meeting House.
- December 8, 2018-Brant attended the AMC Berkshire Chapter's annual Executive Committee retreat.

Upcoming!!!

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- January- in process of planning a planning meeting for 2019 season rides with AMC Berkshire Chapter bike trip leaders Marvin, Sylvia, Sean and Liz
- January- sign up as members of Northampton Cycling Club to start forming a collaboration for 2019.

Communications: Brant Cheikes and Sarah Armour

We've had a busy month as we continue to build the Communications Committee. The most notable news is that Cody Andrews — who attended the December meeting at Noble View on behalf of the Young Members Committee — has volunteered to reboot the Berkshire Exchange newsletter as our new editor! Brant, Cody, and I met via video chat on December 11 to discuss the role and determine the best ways to move forward. Cody is unable to make Monday's meeting, but will attend her first ExCom meeting as newsletter editor in February. In the meantime, here are some of the items we discussed:

- Cody's first newsletter will publish in Spring 2019.
- We determined article guidelines for contributors.
- Submission deadline for the Spring 2019 newsletter is 3/15/19.
- Brant has updated the Berkshire Exchange landing page (<http://amcberkshire.org/berkex>) to reflect all this information. The page also includes Cody's bio and photo.

In other news:

Social Media

I had a call with Bess on December 12 and I have now taken over responsibilities for the Chapter's Facebook page. I uploaded all scheduled chapter activities to the FB Events tab and scheduled several posts. I plan to spend a bit of time every weekend scheduling posts for the week to come. If anyone has any news, links, or photos they'd like to share on the Chapter's Facebook page, please email me (sarmour@outdoors.org). I also spent some time following relevant outdoors and conservation organizations with the goal of fostering communication and expanding our network. We currently have 1,632 followers.

Eblast

The December eblast transmitted on 12/7. The January eblast will go out during the second January window of Jan 18 – 20. If everyone agrees, I'd like to start sending monthly eblasts during the second window (Feb 22 – 24; March 22-24), so that people can let me know during the monthly ExCom meeting if they have anything they'd like to publicize. The chapter eblast currently goes out to 1,413 subscribers. For the January eblast, I'm currently looking at including info about the Chapter Leadership Training

on 2/23 and notification about the newsletter reboot with a call for contributors. I have one additional bigger slot to fill and also have space in the intro. Let me know if you have anything you'd like to share by Friday, January 11.

Website (Brant)

- Posted articles to the Chapter website:
 - Leader training: <http://amcberkshire.org/leader-training-feb-2019>
 - Over 70 and still ripping up the miles: <http://amcberkshire.org/seventy-plus-on-seven-sisters>
- Revised Berkshire Exchange webpage: <http://amcberkshire.org/berkex>
- Updates to AT information in response to feedback from Jim Pelletier
- Circulated December e-blast to AMC BK MeetUp group members
- Reviewed Chapter e-mail aliases, inboxes, and discussion lists; compiled into a spreadsheet and circulated for broader review/feedback; implemented several changes in response to feedback
- Outstanding issues:
 - Chapter's 2017 Annual Report is still MIA
 - Awaiting Chapter's 2018 Annual Report for posting
 - Still having difficulty reliably accessing the Chapter's shared documents on Summit

Upcoming

- The Communications Committee will meet via video chat on Tuesday January 22 to discuss administration of the chapter's MeetUp group and check in to see where we are on content and ideas for the Spring newsletter.
- I'll be attending the AMC Annual Summit on 1/26 – 1/27.

Brant & Sarah

Conservation: – Robert Cherdack

Began researching law and regulations guiding development of renewable energy facilities. Reviewed model ordinances and Belchertown's proposed zoning ordinance governing solar installations. Corresponded with legislators about solar power plant siting and ways to reward landowners for maintaining open space. Met briefly with a Senator Hinds staff member about these issues

and expect to meet with Representative Mark this month. Solar power may be a very commendable technology for reducing carbon emissions, however our forests and field. Farmers and forest land owners see solar power as a way to generate income, In some cases very much needed income, from their holdings. A program which goes beyond tax reductions might help land owners continue to conserve open spaces.

I am planning to become a member of the Massachusetts Association of Environmental Commissions, either individually or through the AMC. This will enable me to learn about environmental issues confronting our communities and the regulatory and other tools available for conservation.

In all of the above, I am keeping in contact with and being helped by AMC staff through Kristen Sykes.

Family Programs: - Open, no report

Mountaineering: Jim Van Natta, Marvin Davenport

NET: Heather Wyman & Dana Gronbeck

Hello all, The NET had our season-end gathering at the beginning of December with surprise visits from Aaron North, the new Southern New England Regional Trails Project Coordinator. If you read the copy of *The Dirt* I sent earlier, you know about the move of the Southern New England Trails headquarters to Noble View and the new paid Teen Crew he was in charge of. If you are at Mt. Tom, you might admire the new New England Trail signs they put up! The second surprise was our artist in residence Ben Cosgrove who stopped in to say hi. Here is a YouTube link to a sample his New England Trail compositions. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUOOWK6ANVA>

This winter we are developing system to create signs for the start of each NET section north and southbound with mileage. Also, our committee is going to be revisiting how to best document, schedule, and prioritize work projects that remain to be completed.

Outings: Kathy Martin

Hikes continued in December as scheduled. Unfortunately, the winter has seen little snow, so we have not been able to do any snowshoeing or even hiking in the snow. We hope that January will bring us some nice snow. We have a new Leader, Laura Stinnette who completed his second co-lead at 1000 Mile Pond. Several of our local hikers received patches for completing the NET 50 Challenge. I plan to attend Summit in January. I continue to be a member of the Training and Education Committee and taught Leadership Training for the CT Chapter this fall.

Paddling: Charlie Murray – no report

Social Chair: Open, no report

Training and Education: Bill Fogel

We are getting ready for our joint training with Worcester scheduled for 2/24-2/25 at Prindle Pond in MA. The five Berkshire trainers (Marvin Davenport, Adam Jasionkowski, Kathy Martin, Charlie Murray, Chris Neil, and Bill Fogel) participating in the training are all faculty of the AMC's Center for Outdoor Learning and Leadership, having attended the The Train the Trainer workshops in outdoor leadership over the past 2 years. Additionally, committee members will be attending the Annual Summit for further training. Bill Fogel will be attending a Mental Health First Aid trainer certification in April after receiving substantial scholarship from the Berkshire Chapter. This will allow Mental Health First Aid courses to be offered to Berkshire Chapter members in the summer.

Young Members (20s/30s): Nicole Dewberry

I led a couple of hikes along the Seven Sisters (the second one came along because I had such a long wait list for the first one!), and a New Year's Day hike on the NET on the MA/CT border. I co-led two of these hikes, one with the Worcester Chapter and one with the CT Chapter. All hikes were full.

I will attend the Summit in January on Saturday only. If anyone is interested in carpooling, I'd be happy to coordinate. I live in Chicopee.

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Also, I'm working with Alex Molnar and Zenya Molnar of the Worcester Chapter and Alison Terjek of the CT Chapter to host an Inter-Chapter Young Members Weekend at Noble View during March 1-3. Please pass the word along if you know of anyone who might be interested in attending and/or volunteering.

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Beginning Bank Balance as of December 1: \$62,283.06

Income/December:

Eventbrite	Bash tickets	\$1,386.77
AMC payment	Allocation 12-2018	\$3,045.25
AMC payment	Donations	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Income: December		<u>\$4,532.02</u>

Expenses/December:

603	Martin Mahoney	December retreat	\$216.96
607	Tricia O Hanrahan	office supplies	\$66.86
609	Kathy Martin	Monthly meeting/meal	\$36.80
614	Hadley Farms	Bash deposit 2019	\$500.00
621	Kathy Martin	Hiker giveaways	\$27.38
623	Heather Wyman	NET tool update	\$123.61
623	Heather Wyman	Scout work day	\$113.18
624	Kathy Martin	T3: Train the Trainer	\$45.00
624	Marvin Davenport	T3: Train the Trainer	\$45.00
624	Ingrid Nelsen	Ingrid/Chris Thompson WFA Certification	\$330.00
	Mass AT Manage-ment Comm	Grinspoon Grant	\$5,996.92
605	Nicole Dewberry	Fall gathering registratn	\$39.00
605	Bill Fogel	Fall gathering registratn	\$85.00
614	Bess Dillman	Bash event expenses	\$992.42
623	Michael Zlogar	tools	\$274.54
624	Adam Jasionkowski	T3: Train the Trainer	\$45.00
624	Bill Fogel	YOP trainings	\$85.00
	Nobleview	Grinspoon Grant	\$5,996.92
622	Bill Fogel	Mental Health First Aid Expedited Instructor Certification	<u>\$475.00</u>
Total Expenses: December			<u>\$15,494.59</u>

Bank Balance as of December 31: \$51,320.49

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Outstanding Income:

Total Outstanding Income

\$0.00

Outstanding expenses January 1:

Total Outstanding Expenses

\$0.00

Account Balance as of January 1

\$51,320.49