

A.M.C. BERKSHIRE CHAPTER - Executive Committee Retreat
Monday, February 4, 2019

Present: Cody Andrews, Sarah Armour, Roger Beer, Brant Cheikes, Robert Cherdack, Marvin Davenport, Nicole Dewberry, Frank Evans, Dana Gronbeck, Tricia Hanrahan, Martin Mahoney, Kathryn Martin, Jan Alicia Nettler, Jim Pelletier, Cosmo Catalano, Alice English

Absent: Bill Fogel, Charles Murray, Chris Neil, Janine Papesh, Heather Wyman

Call to Order: 6:33 pm

Acceptance of Minutes:

Minutes for January 2019 were approved on a motion by Jim Pelletier.

Annual Report:

All sections of the report have been submitted to the Secretary. The complete version will be distributed and uploaded to Summit.

Treasurer Report:

The February report is appended at the end of the minutes. Jan offered a motion to accept the report and it was approved.

Tricia mentioned that she would like to use the bank's online bill pay feature going forward. The bank will issue and mail the physical checks. The committee agreed.

Tricia also said that she intends to request debit cards from the bank, one for her and one for the Chapter Chair.

Vacant Positions:

No candidates for Chapter Vice Chair have come forward yet. The committee discussed ideas for making progress on this issue.

Kathy mentioned that she has been working to find a leader of family programs and a meeting next Sunday may be fruitful.

Excess Reserves Report:

Brant has continued to collect information about the different funds and endowments. He feels that the group has a better understanding of what is permitted, particularly in regard to the E. Porter Dickenson Fund.

He offered a suggestion for future consideration, creating a Finance Committee that would complement to the Treasurer's role by doing strategic thinking.

Berkshire Exchange Newsletter:

Cody reported that she has been researching and learning about past newsletters. She plans to put out an edition in April and is seeking contributions as well a general input. She recently put out an e-mail on this.

Annual AMC Summit:

Martin shared his observations about the recent Annual AMC Summit and the Chapters Committee in particular. Many chapters were unhappy with the rebranding rollout and the way it was done. John Judge also talked about the disappointing website project and accepted responsibility for the results so far. The club has now established an in-house group to implement and manage the online systems.

Jim Pelletier attended the trails session and there was a great deal of concern about the impact of the government shutdown on national scenic trails, especially the AT. There needs to be a way to carry on with trail maintenance even if there is a shutdown.

Grinspoon Foundation:

Martin announced that the Grinspoon Foundation was pleased with the results of their donation last year. This year they are interested in a solar project at Nobel View and may support that.

Other Comments and Announcements:

Sarah gave a brief update on Glorious Mountain Days event in Northampton.

Jan has been working on social events while the Social Chair position is open. She hopes to have two potlucks this year. She is looking for potential presenters.

Jim mentioned that the AT Committee just held their annual volunteer meeting in Great Barrington.

Bob is looking for venues to educate about conservation.

Nicole suggested that the Executive Committee publicize the meetings more and make it know that any chapter member is welcome. It may be necessary to notify the committee in advance to make sure the food and space will accommodate any interested members.

2019 Meetings:

The meetings and food plan for 2018 are as follows:

January 7 – Rockridge, Kathy brings food

February 4 – Rockridge, Nicole brings food

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March 4 - Berkshires at restaurant (TBD)
April - no meeting
May 6 - Rockridge, Martin brings food
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 7:35 pm

Next regular meeting: Monday, March 4 in the Berkshires at 51 Park in Lee, Mass.

Committee reports and Web Updates

Report of the Chair: Martin Mahoney - no report

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier

It's been a relatively quiet month for the AT Committee. First, it's winter, our normally quiet time and 2nd with the partial Federal Government shutdown affecting the National Park Service we have been prevented from performing any of our volunteer responsibilities on NPS AT lands. That said, we did have plenty to do in preparation for our 17th Annual Volunteer Gathering which was held on Saturday with the Great Barrington Trails folks hosting us at the Monument Mountain Middle School in GB. In addition we started gathering info and input for our 2019 Project Schedule, started putting together the UGP Cabin Caretaker schedule for the upcoming season, reinvigorated the mapping effort for the Sages Ravine area to clearly show land ownership bounds, hunting / No hunting areas and access routes, etc. and lastly transitioned leadership of our Natural Resources efforts from Steve Smith to me. The Volunteer Gathering was a big success with some ~90 participants which

included Chapter participants: Martin, Nicole and Heather (many thanks for joining us and participating!).

Immediately ahead we will be: completing out project plans and budget for 2019, getting final reviews of our Local Management Plan update completed and pursuing with our AMC and ATC staff and several other AT volunteer clubs; an agreement with the NPS to allow our AT volunteer efforts to continue unimpeded should/when another government shutdown occurs.

Lastly, I expect tomorrows Executive Committee meeting will be my last as Chair of the AT Committee. We have worked out the transition of my role as Chair to Cosmo Catalano (whom most of you know). I will move to the Past Chair role and Debra Weisenstein will assume the Vice Chair role. Debra will assume the Chair role 2 years hence. I have enjoyed my participation with you all and hope my participation has been productive for the Chapter as well.

Berkshire Exchange: no report

Bicycling: Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh

February 2019

- **January 8, 2019** - AMC BK Bicycling Committee 2019 planning meeting. Attendees: Brant, Janine, Silvia, Martin, Sean. The committee met to sketch out plans for the 2019 outdoor cycling season. Qualified leaders for 2019 are Brant, Janine, Silvia, and Marvin. Sean (present) and Liz (absent) intend to complete their required co-leads during 2019; they have already completed the AMC Leadership Training (March 2018). A schedule of rides from May through September was developed, and is now posted on the committee's webpage: <http://amcberkshire.org/bicycling>. If all goes according to plan, the committee will lead at least 12 rides in 2019, and increase the number of qualified trip leaders to six (6) from four (4)!

Signed,

Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh
Bicycling Committee Co-chairs

Communications: Sarah Armour

Feb. 22, and info on the YM Winter Weekend at Noble View on 3/1.

Facebook:

We're developing a strategic plan for social media posts with the goal of one post per day, organized via a spreadsheet and scheduled about a week ahead. Posts will include club activity reminders, notices of open volunteer positions, information about local conservation initiatives, additional local event info from organizations with similar interests, and the sharing of relevant news and articles from AMC and others. We would love to post recaps and photos from club-led activities – please encourage trip leaders to forward photos and copy to communications@amcberkshire.org.

MeetUp:

The Communications Committee will need to assume ownership of the Chapter's MeetUp group. We'd like to discuss financial aspects (\$14.99/month via credit or debit card) during the ExCom meeting on 2/4.

Newsletter:

We are actively soliciting submissions for the Spring newsletter. Info was included in the January eBlast and will be posted to Facebook. Information was sent to the ExCom – please share via your group lists.

Website:

Several items were added to the Chapter's website including: the AT Volunteers event (with additional edits made to the AT page links), the 2017 Annual Report, the Bicycling Committee's 2019 ride calendar.

Eventbrite:

We set up an Eventbrite account for use by the Chapter. Login information is:
Username: communications@amcberkshire.org
Password: AMCBerk55uY

Conservation: – Robert Cherdack

1) I am working on getting a better understanding of the state's policy on solar siting. While solar power may be a way to reduce greenhouse gas production, it can eat up large areas of fields and forests with many negative effects on aesthetics and ecologies. The state has structured payments in an effort to steer solar developments toward developed areas. However, the difference in payment rates between the most favored sites, such as parking lots, and the less favored sites such as forests may not be enough to overcome the cost

advantage of cheap forest land with few interferences. Some western Massachusetts towns are developing ordinances to control where solar power can be located, Pittsfield, Belchertown, and some south county town, among them.

Solar power plants can be a way for landowners to receive some economic benefit from otherwise financially unproductive lands. Since forests also help reduce global warming incentives for maintaining them as carbon banks need to be increased.

I am planning to meet with state legislators on these issues this month.

2) I have reviewed the minutes of the September 2018 meeting concerning the study of adding a turnpike exit between Lee and Westfield. It looks like the service center and the rest stop in Blandford are the most promising locations. I have signed up to receive updates on the study. Still not sure why this is being pursued. From the AMC viewpoint: do we have any trails of interest in this area that may be adversely affected?

3) Received a heads up from Mass Audubon about a bill sponsored by Representative Natalie Blaise I believe that this bill, HD 3173, a relisting of H707 from the previous session (see <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/189/H707>). It calls for protection of Old Growth Forests on state owned land by law rather than just by DCR and others policies.

Representative Mark is also a sponsor and Senator Hinds is sponsoring it in the Senate [see <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/SD1616>]

Please call or email your legislators to support it and ask them to expand it, if possible, to cover lands where the state hold easements or other rights.

4) On 2/5, I will be taking part in a phone conference with other chapter conservation chairs and staff and expect to have a better idea of what we should be doing vis a vis the Land and Water Conservation Fund and funding for conservation and environmental programs over the ne

Family Programs: - Heather Wyman

Hello, just ta quick note about family programs. Dee Dice and I attended "Getting Kids and Families Out" at Summit last weekend. The Boston Chapter had some great ideas that are practical for our chapter, even if we do not have a Family Programs Committee:

1) Have leaders and other Committee members reach out to their own communities and connect with groups or clubs that have family events. The

Boston Chapter reached out to those folks, asked to piggy back on these events and advertised through the AMC. At the event, the AMC person would collect names and emails of participants looking to do more family activities. It sounds parasitic, but it is such a great idea. The other organization does all of the planning and they simply showed up.

2) They suggested teaming up. If there was a hike to a popular area or other event out our way, we could reach out to them, or other chapters, to get more family program events happening out our way. This is win-win for everyone.

3) Create a separate participant email list serve that could be used by any authorized person to send event opportunities and newsletters (they use a Yahoo account).

It would be great if our own committee had contacts in their communities that they could share so that we could know when family events are happening. I would be happy to start reaching out and distributing events to an email list. Even if you know OF groups that do events, that would be helpful. I believe that some interested folks are going to be meeting over this next weekend, so if people have ideas, that would be great.

Mountaineering: Marvin Davenport

We held 6 climbing sessions indoors and 1 New Year's Day hike on Mt Monadnock. Thanks

NET: Heather Wyman & Dana Gronbeck

Hello everyone, not a lot of new news since the last update. Our committee will be meeting in the next month or so to start planning our annual projects. I did represent the ITC subcommittee at Summit (with incoming ATC member Cosmo) on the ongoing "Volunteer Trail Leader Requirements and Guidelines" document that we are creating for all chapters to understand what best practices and qualifications might apply for someone looking to lead a trail work day. Even as a chapter-wide committee, only the OLDC can enforce requirements, so we are going to fine tune this document hoping most chapters will use this as a template for their own trail committees to use as a starting point. We do reference (mandatory) points in the LRG that apply to trail work. Even more so, we are hoping that if we create a divination of skill sets and abilities, we can start expanding our training opportunities so that we can reach even more potential leaders-to-be.

Outings: Kathy Martin

We have continued with our usual Tuesday hikes. Attendance has been 14 or more participants for every hike in 2019, so people seem to be enjoying it. Currently we have the following people leading Tuesday hikes: Mike April, Roger Beer, Mark Bevin, Elbert Bowler, Donna Breton, Karen Daniels, Marvin Davenport, Carole Dupont, Grace Ferrante, Paul Glazebrook, David Herships, Jeannie Jones, Diane Jones, Kathy Martin, Peggy McLennan, Jan Nettler, Barbara Pitoniak, Fred Riotte, Al Shane, Tim Sheehan, Wendy Sinton, Laura Stinnette, Peter Thieme, Juliana Vanderwielan, Patty Watson, David Wells, and Ann Wood.

In addition we have several leaders who lead our AT Series and other hikes. They include Nicole Dewberry, Burchie Green, Dee Dice, Bess Gilman, Jon Hanauer, Sarah Hart, Eliot Levine, Zenya Molnar, Alexandra Molnar, Roxanne Suprina, Janice Tassinari, Alison Terjek, Heather Wyman and Mike Zloger. Tuesday hikes are posted on the AMC website by Mary Moriarty with back-up from David Whitney and Lewis Popper. All Tuesday hikes are scheduled by Deborah Shae, Jeannie Jones, Kathy Martin and Peggy McLennan. After 15 years of service Jeannie Jones will be retiring this year and George Leary has graciously agreed to take over her responsibilities. While some of our Leaders lead one hike a year, or seasonal hikes, or special occasion hikes for the AMC, many lead at least once a quarter or more, so a special thanks to them: Roger Beer, Karen Daniels, Grace Ferrante, Paul Glazebrook, Jennie Jones, Kathy Martin, Wendy Stinson, and David Wells. We also have several new hike leaders and we hope they too will lead once a quarter also. Thanks to everyone who helps with our Outings in any capacity. Everyone has a niche that makes the process work and without them our endeavors will not be successful.

I attended the Summit a few weeks ago and come back with lots of new info and hope to utilize some of the workshop presenters in the Berkshire chapter. I also continued with my T3 training by presenting along with others a lesson plan on DEI.

Paddling: Charlie Murray – no report

Social Chair: Open, no report

Training and Education: Bill Fogel

We are getting ready for our joint chapter leadership training with Worcester on 2/23-24. We are integrating a more diverse instructional practices as we plan to include specific instructional material for all activities (Hiking, Biking, Climbing, Paddling, Trails). We are looking forward to teaching and currently have 17 folks signed up (not all from Berkshire - I will report final numbers at next month's meeting).

In regard to Summit, the Mountaineering committee can report on the interchapter climbing meeting which was productive and may help to add to the chapter's discussion of the Chapter Reserve Policy.

In regard to OLDC, the new Leadership Requirements and Guidelines were approved will be enacted in Mid-March. I will distribute theses at the next meeting.

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

I went to The Summit yesterday.

While helping to plan for the upcoming YM weekend at Noble View, I came across a couple of sites that may be useful to rest of you:

: www.PerfectPotluck.com – this site is the only one I found that allows participants to fill in the name of the dish that they plan to bring.

: www.volunteersignup.org – for non-profit organizations. You could find many uses for this site. I used this site to make a list of small chores that participants may choose from to help out through the weekend (such as a couple of people to wash dishes on Saturday morning, etc.)

During January:

: I co-lead a hike with Alison and Corey of the CT Chapter on the sections of the NET at the MA-CT border on New Year's Day. We had a large group.

: I held a social at the Tunnel Bar where I met a few climbers who go to the climbing gym in Hadley regularly. I suggested that they contact the mountaineering committee, and said that I would be happy to collaborate with them if they choose to host a YM climbing activity in the future.

Also, I've been trying to form a YM sub-committee for a while now without luck. Nearly all of the outdoor activities that I lead are well attended (maybe except for those that are located particularly far from the highway). Even though I see regular and new participants, I don't receive much response for volunteering. Therefore I think I'm going to play the only card that I have used yet and give

up my position as chair, but continue to lead a activities about once per month. I'm hoping that if the position is open, there is a chance that it might catch someone's attention. I understand that this timing isn't great since the chapter has other vacant executive committee positions, but I will continue to keep the committee fully functioning in terms of activities and hopefully, eventually, I will find someone else who is interested in volunteering too. I really like volunteering as the YM chair and seeing all of you regularly, but I have to find more time in my schedule for some things that are coming up later this year, and they will require more time than I can spare right now. I will continue on as the YM chair through the end of March. Soon I will contact all participants on my email list to ask if anyone is interested in taking my place. The following is the "advertisement" that I will include in that email. Those of you on the communications committee who would like to advertise this position may borrow from the following description if you wish.

"I'm looking for someone to take my place as the Young Members (20s/30s) Chair in the Berkshire Chapter, beginning in April. I will continue on afterward as a hiking leader and as a part of the Young Members Subcommittee, and will continue to keep in touch with all of you through these emails that I send once per season too, but I would like to take a step back from the other duties that I have as the YM Chair. There are a couple of things coming up for me later on this year that will take up more time than I can spare right now, and so I thought I would begin searching now for someone to take my place. When I started I didn't know anything about AMC and so I can tell you first hand that no prior experience is necessary. I've enjoyed meeting with the executive committee of our chapter during the past few years—they're a nice group. They're very helpful too, and these meetings are a great way to learn about the inner workings of AMC. Some sort of dinner, usually pizza, is provided at every meeting. To quickly sum up the duties of YM Chair: you would attend most of the ten chapter meetings per year (less than one per month), maintain and spend the Young Members budget, lend a hand during a few chapter-wide events such as picnics and potlucks, and communicate occasionally with AMC employees. You would not be required to lead hikes or other activities, though most chairs do complete the training and lead at least a few activities per year (note that a training is coming up, listed below). If you're interested, please let me know. We could arrange to talk over the phone or meet for coffee or go on a hike."

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AMC Berkshire Chapter Treasurer Report February 2019			2/3/2019
Beginning Bank Balance as of January 1:			\$51,320.49
Income/January:			
Total Income: January			\$0.00
Expenses/January:			
622	Silvia Scott	Training/Bicycling	\$60.00
Total Expenses: January			\$60.00
Bank Balance as of January 31:			\$51,260.49
Outstanding Income:			
Total Outstanding Income			\$0.00
Outstanding expenses:			
602	Nicole Dewberry	Summit registration	\$35.00
Total Outstanding Expenses			\$35.00
Account Balance as of February 1			\$51,225.49