

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

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Present: Roger Beer, Brant Cheikes, Robert Cherdack, Nicole Dewberry, Frank Evans, Bill Fogel, Dana Gronbeck, Tricia Hanrahan, Martin Mahoney, Jan Alicia Nettler, Chris Neil, Janine Papesh, Charlie Arsenault, Faith Salter

Absent: Cody Andrews, Sarah Armour, Cosmo Catalano, Alice English, Marvin Davenport, Kathryn Martin, Charles Murray, Heather Wyman

Call to Order: 6:30 pm

Introduction of Guests:

Charlie Arsenault, Regional Director and Faith Salter, Director of Volunteer Relations were introduced and spoke about their roles.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Minutes for February 2019 were approved on a motion by Jan Nettler.

Annual Report:

Tricia opened the floor for questions. The discussion was brief.

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.

Training and Education Update:

1. New Leadership Requirement Guidelines (LRGs) – Bill reported that all trip leaders need to be on the database and all activities need to be posted two weeks prior to the event.
2. DEI Training – There are plans underway to provide DEI training to the chapter Executive Committee. Bill will try to find viable dates.
3. Trip Leader Qualification – The current policy states that candidates need to complete 2 co-leads to satisfy the requirement for becoming a leader. After some discussion it was decided to retain this policy.
4. Wilderness First Aid – the April offering at Noble View is full. They are trying to arrange another date this Spring, possibly May 18 – 19. Another offering is planned for November.
5. Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) – A training program for YOP leaders is being considered. It is a 3 day program and would be presented at Noble View. The program is targeted at under-privileged areas. Bill asked for financial support and help. He was

asked to develop and estimate of the cost. Heather and Martin have offered to help Bill.

#### Social Activities:

The April Potluck has been postponed because the proposed date is also when Easter and Passover will be taking place. The intended speaker may not be able come on a new date. Jan is looking at a day in May.

Jan proposed another Potluck in July. It is hoped that it could serve as a recruiting event for the Executive Committee.

Jan is considering ideas for the Outdoor Festival in September. There is a person who could show people how to identify trees by their bark on a walk through the woods. She is looking for potential speakers.

Martin reported that the book event in Northampton was well attended and brought in some money.

#### Excess Reserves Report:

Brant presented the Financial Reserves Task Force findings accompanied with a handout. This was followed by questions and discussion. Brant asked for a show of hands of those who support complying with the club's policy. A strong majority felt that the chapter should agree to accept the club policy.

#### Recruiting:

Faith mentioned that she has seen tactics employed by other chapters and is willing to share them with us.

#### 2019 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
- June 3 - Rockridge, Tricia brings food
- July – no meeting

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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: none

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm

Next regular meeting: Monday, May 6 at the Rockridge in Northampton at 6:30 pm.

Committee reports and Web Updates

Report of the Chair: Martin Mahoney – no report

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier

At our meeting last evening we made some changes in our Committee leadership I'd like to share with you:

- I'd like to welcome Cosmo as he returns to the Chair position and Debra Weisenstein as she assumes the post of Vice Chair. I'll be moving into the Immediate Past Chair role. We've formalized these roles a bit with the expectation being that the chair will serve for 2 years with the Vice Chair likewise serving 2 years while preparing to assume the role of Chair and the Immediate Past Chair also serving 2 years assisting the Chair and Vice Chair.
- Debra will also be transitioning into the Corridor Program Coordinator role to become familiar with another part of our volunteer responsibilities on an interim basis while we seek a "permanent" volunteer for this role. Dave Pirog has stepped back into the role of Corridor Boundary Maintenance Coordinator.
- Mike Brick will be transitioning into the Central Maintainer Coordinator Role relieving Debra in this capacity and joining our other

2 new Maintainer Coordinators (Josh Weeks in the North and Russ Skelton in the South).

With these changes and additions our roster of AT Committee members is full with more depth than we've had in my time with the Committee. It is especially gratifying to see all the new people who have stepped forward recently as well as the "old hands" who remain giving us a strong complement of leadership moving forward.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you for the support you've given to me as Chair. As Cosmo observed when he passed the baton to me, we succeed with the participation and cooperation of all our volunteers and leaders. Your support, participation and wise advice has been invaluable in creating the robust and respected organization we are today. I am confident that with your continued support and our new leadership team we will continue to be the kind of organization creators of the Appalachian Trail envisioned so many years ago.

Berkshire Exchange: no report

Bicycling: Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh

*February 2019*

- The Bicycling Committee has acquired and is in the process of testing a new bike-mounted GPS computer that will be shared among the trip leaders and used to provide turn-by-turn guidance during a bicycling trip.

Upcoming!!!

- Attend the Northampton Cycling Club leaders meeting to start forming a collaboration for 2019.
- Begin posting planned rides on the Activities Database.

Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesh  
Bicycling Committee Co-chairs

Communications: Brant Cheikes

*February 2019*

- The Chair of the Communications Committee had to unexpectedly step down. She has taken a job in Boston and will be moving out of the Chapter's service area.
- The new Newsletter Editor has had to step back temporarily to pursue a new business venture. As a result, the scheduled April re-launch of the chapter newsletter is likely to slip to the summer or fall.
- As a result of the changes to the committee's volunteer staff level, website updates will be reduced in frequency, the chapter's Facebook page will go quiet, and MeetUp stewardship will be at a minimal level. Chapter monthly e-mail blasts will continue on a regular schedule.

Upcoming!!!

- Post the Communications Chair position on the Activities Database as a volunteer opportunity.
- The March e-mail blast will go out during the scheduled window of March 8-10.

Conservation: – Robert Cherdack – no report

Family Programs: - Heather Wyman – no report

Mountaineering: Marvin Davenport – no report

NET: Heather Wyman & Dana Gronbeck

Hello everyone, the New England Trail committee, all four of us, met recently to start our goal planning for the season and map out our priorities. Besides the usual things you would get expect trail people to do, we are finally going to start building a roaming volunteer trail crew this year. We have never had a crew of trained people to plan and complete large projects-just the section adopters, most of who are trained for basic maintenance. We have one trained volunteer to do this job for all of the trail right now, Mike Zlogar. We have had some success

working with colleges and groups to supply warm bodies to do projects, but it is not always a dependable number.

Therefore, in your circles of friends, if you know anybody who is interested, we are going to start gathering a crew of 10 people willing to go through a training program that Mike will design starting in April.

For any other questions you might have, Bridget is going to be fielding most of these inquiries- [Blikely@outdoors.org](mailto:Blikely@outdoors.org).

Heather Wyman

Outings: Kathy Martin

Outings has continued to hike and snowshoe over the winter. Attendance has averaged around 10. I will not be at the next meeting. Take care. Kathy

Paddling: Charlie Murray

The Paddle Committee met a couple of weeks ago and developed a whitewater paddling schedule for Spring, including trips for beginners. Some of the dam releases have not yet been published. When they are, additional trips will be posted.

We also hope to offer some flatwater trips with the help of Dee Dice. In addition, Cynthia Boettner intends to combine paddle trips with her conservation efforts to remediate water chestnuts in the CT River.

At the recent Leadership Training workshop, several LITs were interested in leading paddle trips. One thing I learned is that it is possible to co-lead trips without attending the LT workshop. That could help recruiting new leaders.

Finally, we are going to develop a strategic plan and put our budget together for the year.

Social Chair: Open, no report

Training and Education: Bill Fogel

We had a successful joint leadership training February 23-24 in Charlton. 20 folks attended from various chapters. We had 5 instructors

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(Marvin, Adam, Charlie, Chris and Bill) who represented the chapter exceptionally well. 6 prospective trip leaders from Berkshire signed up and 4 attended. While at the training 4 additional participants committed to becoming Berkshire Chapter trip leaders. The training offered differentiated tracks for Hiking/Backpacking, Climbing, Cycling, and Paddling. Next we would like to include trails. There was also participant interest in becoming involved with Conservation.

Young Members (20s/30s): Nicole Dewberry – no report

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<b>AMC Berkshire Chapter Treasurer Report March 2019</b>			<b>3/1/19</b>
<b>Beginning Bank Balance as of February 1:</b>			\$ 51,260.49
<b>Income/February:</b>			
	Total Income: February		\$ -
<b>Expenses/February:</b>			
602	Tricia Hanrahan	Summit reg and hotel	\$185.80
602	Kathy Martin	Summit reg and hotel	\$185.80
609	Kathy Martin	Meeting exp/food	\$42.98
611	AT Committee	Yearly Allocation	\$1200.00
632	Brant Cheikes	GPS bike computer	\$350.61
629	Brant Cheikes	Meetup subscription	\$95.56
607	Jan Nettler	Name tags	\$49.16
604	Noble View	Chapter retreat 12/18	\$150.00
	Total Expenses: February		\$ 2,259.91
<b>Bank Balance as of March 1:</b>			\$ 49,000.58
<b>Outstanding Expenses as of March 1:</b>			
602	Nicole Dewberry	Summit registration	\$35.00
602	Bill Fogel	Summit reg and hotel	\$358.94
609	Nicole Dewberry	Meeting exp/food	\$77.80
	Total Outstanding Expenses: March		\$ 471.74
<b>Account Balance as of March 1:</b>			\$ 48,528.84

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<b>Financial/Budget Update - March 2019</b>						<b>3/1/2019</b>
<b>Status of Accounts</b>						
	<b><u>Income:</u></b>		<b><u>Budgeted 2019</u></b>		<b><u>Received</u></b>	<b><u>Balance Expected</u></b>
<b>401</b>	Member Dues Alloc		\$10,200.00		\$0.00	\$10,200.00
<b>403</b>	Endowment Income		\$4,300.00		\$0.00	\$4,300.00
<b>404</b>	Berkshire Bash Tickets		\$1,500.00		\$0.00	\$1,500.00
<b>406</b>	Donations		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>407</b>	Appalachian Trail Committee		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>408</b>	Training & Education		\$600.00		\$0.00	\$600.00
<b>*409</b>	Family Programs		\$1,500.00		\$0.00	\$1,500.00
<b>410</b>	Special Project Funding/Grants					\$0.00
<b>411</b>	Budget shortage from bank account		\$6,055.00		\$6,055.00	\$0.00
		<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$24,155.00</b>		<b>\$6,055.00</b>	<b>\$18,100.00</b>
	<b><u>Expenses:</u></b>		<b><u>Budgeted 2019</u></b>	<b><u>Fees/Reimb</u></b>	<b><u>Expended</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>
<b>601</b>	Executive-Donations		\$0.00	-	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>602</b>	Executive-Annual Meeting/Summit		\$1,200.00	-	\$765.54	\$434.46
<b>603</b>	Executive-XCMiniretreat		\$400.00	-	\$0.00	\$400.00
<b>604</b>	Executive-Chapter Retreat		\$400.00	-	\$150.00	\$250.00
<b>605</b>	Executive-Fall Gathering		\$600.00	-	\$0.00	\$600.00
<b>606</b>	Executive-Volunteer Recognition		\$500.00	-	\$0.00	\$500.00
<b>607</b>	Executive-Office Supplies		\$200.00	-	\$49.16	\$150.84
<b>609</b>	Executive-Meeting Expense		\$950.00	-	\$120.78	\$829.22
<b>611</b>	Appalachian Trail Committee		\$1,200.00	-	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
<b>613</b>	Executive-Berkshire Exchange			-	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>614</b>	Executive-Berkshire Bash		\$5,000.00	-	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
<b>615</b>	Executive-Berkshire Potlucks		\$300.00	-	\$0.00	\$300.00
<b>616</b>	Conservation Committee		\$500.00	-	\$0.00	\$500.00
<b>617</b>	Family Programs		\$2,000.00	-	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
<b>618</b>	Executive-Insurance		\$500.00	-	\$0.00	\$500.00
<b>619</b>	Membership Committee		\$200.00	-	\$0.00	\$200.00
<b>620</b>	Executive-Internet		\$100.00	-	\$0.00	\$100.00
<b>621</b>	Outings Committee		\$750.00	-	\$0.00	\$750.00

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622	Executive-Scholarship & Subsidies		\$2,000.00		\$60.00	\$1,940.00
623	NET Committee		\$600.00		\$0.00	\$600.00
624	Training & Education		\$2,200.00		\$0.00	\$2,200.00
625	Executive-Public Relations		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
627	Young Members Committee		\$500.00		\$0.00	\$500.00
628	Executive-Storage Fees		\$825.00		\$0.00	\$825.00
629	Executive-Meetup.com Fees		\$180.00		\$95.56	\$84.44
630	Paddling Committee		\$0.00		\$0.00	-
631	Executive-Outdoor Festival		\$2,000.00		\$0.00	\$2,000.00
632	Bicycling Committee		\$300.00		\$350.61	(\$50.61)
633	Mountaineering		\$750.00		\$0.00	\$0.00
	Special Project Funding/Grants					
		<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$24,155.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$2,791.65</b>	<b>\$21,363.35</b>
	<b>Overall Budget Surplus Deficit</b>				<b>\$3,263.35</b>	