
Absent: Martin Mahoney, Janine Papesh, Marvin Davenport

Call to Order:  9:09 am

Acceptance of Minutes:

Minutes for October 2019 were approved on a motion by Kathy, seconded by Heather. The motion was approved.

Review of 2019 Berkshire Bash:

Brant discussed the feedback provided by the survey and made some observations and recommendations about the event. There was some discussion and some suggestions for the future.

- Hadley Farms was difficult to work with. We should consider a different venue. Already many alternatives are booked. Summit House in Holyoke is available.
- The survey does not reveal who chose not to come or why.
- The booklets could be reduced to one or two per table.
- Having an interesting speaker is probably a draw.

It was agreed that a committee for the 2020 Bash should be formed and start planning soon.

Paddling:

The paddling committee no longer has a chair. Brant has had some contact with a person who could serve, if she is willing.

The paddling bank account has been closed and the funds have been rolled into the chapter funds.
Leave No Trace:

Two Leave No Trace training are being planned for 2020. One with the Paddling committee and one with the Outings committee.

Annual Report:

Many of the committee reports have been submitted. The following sections are outstanding:

- Report of the Chapter Chair
- Social/Membership Committee
- Training and Education
- Final Treasurer Report

It was agreed that all sections will be submitted by January 15, 2020.

Meeting Dates For 2020:

The committee discussed timing and format of the meetings for the coming year. The AT committee also meets on the first Monday of the month on odd months, posing a conflict for Cosmo. Other days of the week posed problems and other Mondays had problems as well. Also discussed was the matter of how many meetings there should be.

In the end we decided to stay with the first Monday on even months and the second Monday on odd months. Since this poses a conflict for the secretary it will be necessary for a volunteer to take notes on the odd months when the secretary cannot attend.

Unresolved for now is the location of each meeting and how food will be provided. It is possible that some meetings will be conducted online and some months the meeting may be cancelled. A preliminary plan is as follows:

January 13 – (second Monday), Rockridge, Chris brings food
February 3 –
March 9 - (second Monday)
April 6 –
May 11 – (second Monday)
June 1 -
July – no meeting
August 3 –
September 14 (second Monday)
Strategic Planning and Priorities:

The committee spent some time considering issues that stretched across the chapter committees and that could shape the chapter going forward.

Faith reviewed the AMC 150 vision.

Heather presented a proposal to rename the chapter. She pointed out that in the minds of many the term Berkshire suggests only the state’s most western county. In fact, our chapter encompasses the four westernmost counties and the Pioneer Valley accounts for a large percentage of the chapter membership. Renaming the chapter would be an effort to reach everyone in the four counties.

Cosmo offered a motion to form a committee that would explore the renaming idea and to find out how the idea would be seen by the other AMC chapters, at the chapters committee in January. The motion was approved.

Heather presented her ideas about rebooting the family programs. A proposal was circulated prior to the meeting. She also requested that money be for this effort be included int the budget.

At the end of the discussion the following items were listed as being strategically important:

- Conservation
- Family Program reboot
- Chapter renaming
- Chapter outreach and visibility
- Youth Opportunities Program (YOP)
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI)
Tricia distributed her reports prior to the meeting.

She requested that all outstanding checks be cased/deposited before the end of the year, for good housekeeping.

Cash reimbursements were made to committee members for their 2019 Bash tickets.

**End-Of-Year expenditures:**

Cosmo offered a motion to expend $900 before year end for bear canisters that would be available to groups on the AT. It is hoped that this would relieve pressure on the bear boxes at the campsites. The motion was approved.

Ray requested approval of a purchase of pruning saws for trail maintenance. The saws have already been purchased. Approval was given.

**Budget:**

Bill offered a motion to divide expense item 622, Scholarships and Subsidies into two items, one for scholarships and subsidies and one for chapter training reimbursement. Cosmo seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Bill requested $2500 be included in the budget for YOP training in Berkshire Chapter. A motion to allocate $2500 was approved.

Bill requested an addition of $800 Training and Education Budget to target Chapter DEI initiative to train existing trip leaders in DEI.

The Mountaineering committee presented a proposal to support in the Inter-chapter Climbing Committee in AMC. This is a new initiative and the chapters are being asked to contribute to this initiative. A motion was offered for the chapter to contribute $5000 ($3500 from the chapter and $1500 from the mountaineering committee). The motion was approved.

The Mountaineering committee also presented a proposal to support the Hanging Mountain Climbers Coalition, which would help with acquisition
and development of a resource in Sandisfield. An amount of $10,000 was discussed but the decision was deferred to later.

A motion to set a provisional budget was offered by Eric. The income is composed of $15,850 projected income and $5194 removed from chapter reserves. Expenses are set at $21,044. The motion was approved. The Hanging Mountain proposal remains on the table.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm