AMC NH Chapter – Minutes

Meeting Date: May 9, 2013

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH

Members in Attendance:

- Karen Thurston, Chair
- Wayne Goertel, Vice Chair
- Bill Warren, Treasurer
- Beth Zimmer, Secretary
- Gene Harding, Bike Chair
- Paul Hopkins, Conservation
- Eric Savage, Education Chair; Past Chair
- Jennifer Varney, Excursions Co-Chair
- TBA, Excursions Co-Chair
- Patty Anderson, Hospitality Chair
- Mitch Manseau, Membership Co-Chair
- Marianne Page, Membership Co-Chair
- Jim Kent, Mountaineering Co-Chair
- Tom Sintros, Mountaineering Co-Chair
- Ron Janowitz, Newsletter Editor
- David Phillips, Newsletter Editor
- Susan Englert, Newsletter Editor
- Sally Leonard, Paddling Co-Chair
- Marcy Stanton, Paddling Co-Chair
- Paul Berry, Programs Co-Chair
- Marie Berry, Programs Co-Chair
- "Sam" Ruth Jamke, Regional Director, North (NH & ME)
- Tony Schmidt, Ski Co-Chair
- Valerio Viti, Ski Co-Chair
- Richie Holstein, Trails Chair
- Tom Todd, Webmaster
- John Green, Young Members Chair
- Roger Scholl, Guest / AMC Staff Liaison
- Rick Silverberg, Guest / Outdoor Leadership Development
- Lu Ann Laquerre, Guest
Call to Order

K. Thurston called the meeting to order at 7:06.

Approval of April ’13 Minutes / Beth Zimmer

B. Zimmer had sent out minutes to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. A motion was made by P. Berry to approve the minutes as presented; it was seconded by R. Holstein; there was no discussion or comment and the motion was approved unanimously.

Review of March ‘13 Treasurer’s Report / Bill Warren

B. Warren had sent out treasurer reports to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. The reports were received without question or comment.

Next Meeting: Date and Food

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 6, 2013; this will be our last meeting prior to the summer break of July and August.

Thanks go out to the Paddling Committee for tonight’s terrific dinner; next month, food will be provided by the Skis and Trails Committees.

Committee Member Resignation / Interim Appointment

L. Tokatlian submitted a letter that he was resigning from his position as Excursions Committee Co-Chair. A motion was made by R. Holstein to accept his resignation; it was seconded by G. Harding; and it was approved unanimously.

AMC NH bylaws, Section 6, allow ExComm to appoint an interim ExComm member (Excursions Co-Chair). David Ross has offered to step back into this position. There was discussion as to whether this was permissible as D. Ross had been a prior Excursions Co-Chair. A review of the Excursions bylaws indicated that this was permissible as a year had passed since his prior term. A motion was made by R. Janowitz to appoint D. Ross
as interim Excursions Co-Chair; this was seconded by P. Anderson; and it was approved unanimously.

AMC NH 2014 Nomination Slate (DRAFT)

W. Goertel presented ExComm with a draft AMC NH Chapter 2014 Nomination Slate. One opening that still exists is Hospitality Chair. A guest (L. Laquerre) was in attendance who is considering accepting nomination for the position. It was also noted that our present chair, Karen Thurston, is finishing her 2-year term.

The above led to a discussion about getting help to Hospitality, and/or considering a co-chair, and/or combining efforts with Programs. P. Berry responded that he likes the present division of labor, as it frees him up at dinner programs to sell fleece, etc., while Hospitality takes care of door registrations and the like.

P. Anderson noted that an aspect of hospitality not recognized is the occasional phone call from an individual about how to join AMC NH, etc. Also, Hospitality takes care of registration for the annual dinner.

W. Goertel noted that we need a 2014 Nominating Committee. Members may not be on ExComm. Some suggestions were noted and these individuals will be contacted.

Review of Spring Events

A Glacier Travel Workshop was fully subscribed. There has always been an open invitation to Sterling Rope (sponsor) and this year they sent a representative to glacial school; this was very positive. J. Kent explained that this was the first year we offered a discount (20%) for AMC members; this resulted in many participants joining the AMC, even though it cost them more money to join in order to get the discount for the workshop.

AMC NH Spring School at Cardigan Lodge saw 10 participants for map and compass, and many others for backpacking, ‘stay overnight with what’s in your backpack,’ and leadership, etc. B. Warren shared that overall, it went very well and reminded all that the Cardigan schools (winter and spring sessions) are the premiere events for the NH
Chapter. Spring session does not sell out like the two winter weekends, but it was still well attended.

The Paddling Committee shared that 24 students finished whitewater paddling school; S. Leonard and M. Stanton shared that the Paddling Committee too, offered a discount to members, which resulted in some individuals joining the AMC.

P. Berry shared that during the Milford Outdoor Day, 100 people stopped by AMC NH booth.

During the Wild NH Day, again, over 100 people stopped by the booth. P. Berry had put up two signs, which noted that Chapter trips are “free” and “open to everyone.” Our present tri-fold is too small for such large events. A larger banner is needed. P. Berry spoke about capturing members and how perhaps getting them into or on an activity as a first step, will lead to them seeking membership (versus the paradigm of signing up members first, and engaging them in activities second). There was discussion about how to promote the notion that our events are free (newsletter? website?). There was also discussion about putting invitations in our newsletter for members to help out at these some of our events; we have thousands of members, and reaching out to them to help volunteer will engage more individuals.

Calendar Review

June will be our last meeting prior to our summer break; we will return on Thursday, September 5. K. Thurston led members through a calendar review that highlighted the following:

- May: Paddling River Cleanup; Family Bike / Northern Trail; Young Members Inter-Chapter at Cardigan; SOLO; Northern Forest Canoe Trail Weekend; White Mountain B&B weekend; Family Group Weekend at Greenleaf Hut; Chapters Retreat.
- May Chapters Retreat: this will occur down in New Jersey; focus will be on the “5th pillar,” which is leadership development; the NH Chapter will be presenting information on our practices regarding budget process;
- May SOLO: running SOLO WFA in May is new; as of tonight’s meeting, they are 2 or 3 shy of the minimum needed to run this weekend; K. Thurston gave the go-ahead to fill the last few spots with members who would pay their own way.
• June: National Trails Day with opportunities at two locations; Paddling River Cleanup; Paddling White River in VT Weekend; Luncheon Meeting on 6/8; Young Members Annual Picnic; Hut Night at Mizpah; Paddling Series; Family Paddle; Hut Night at Galehead.
• Paddling Series: a Wednesday night Paddling Series begins in June; this costs $10; most people do know not the Chapter owns boats
• July: Paddling River Cleanup; Paddling Series; Seacoast Biking; Presidential Range Hut-to-Hut; Young Members at Barnes Field
• August: Paddling River Cleanup; Paddling Series; Tanglewood Bike/Hike Weekend; Young Members Paddling; Knubble Bay Weekend
• September: Hut Night at Madison; Ski Committee Planning Meeting; Young Members Camping at Osceola; AMC Outdoors Leadership Gathering

Key Dates for 2013-14 ExComm

• August 1: Submit article, slate, and web-link to Mountain Passages with cc to Web
• September 5: ExComm Meeting - Annual Reports and Final 2013-14 Slate due to Beth Zimmer, Secretary
• September 25: Beth Zimmer sends Annual Report including 2013-14 Slate to printer, web & Joy St.
• October 26: NH Chapter Annual Meeting & Dinner at Canterbury Woods Country Club

Fall Foliage with the NH Chapter

K. Thurston noted that there is a lot of energy around spring activities and that perhaps we can make a big deal about all of our fall offerings. She asked, “How can we create some energy in the fall, letting members and the public know that our activities are free and open to all (even non-members)?”

Some of the suggestions included using e-mails, the newsletter (trip leaders have to submit articles on time) and website (talk to T. Todd about placing some sort of header regarding “Fall Activities with AMC NH” on the Chapter’s homepage) to promote participation in Chapter activities.
Regarding e-mail blasts, the Chapter is limited to three entries, which makes it difficult to present the array of free activities offered during the fall. J. Green noted that Young Members communicate exclusively through Facebook. There was discussion that we need to have another tool available, such as a “MeetUp” type platform. R. Janowitz reminded all that the next deadline for fall (September/October) newsletter, Mountain Passages, is August 1.

Volunteer Appreciation

K. Thurston stated that last year, we presented ExComm members with dinner, drink ticket and mug; volunteers got a mug and drink ticket, but paid for dinner. As a reminder, “volunteers” are everyone, (ExComm and ALL trip leaders from ALL committees). There was discussion about what we want to do for our volunteers this year. Some of the discussion / ideas included:

• Should we hold a separate event such as at the Currier Gallery? Perhaps a holiday wine and cheese social? Or cookout at Cardigan where volunteers could participate in activities? Or tagging the appreciation event to an existing event such as the Sunapee Craftmen’s Fair or Gunstock’s Octoberfest?
• Holding a separate event in August or September? Perhaps a potluck in August? Or would this interfere with the Excursions Committee who holds their annual business meeting during the summer?
• Should we continue to combine volunteer appreciation with the annual meeting? Does this make sense since volunteers have to pay to come to their appreciation event? Or should we de-couple volunteer appreciation from the annual meeting?
• Gift cards can get out of control; but we could afford a raffle for a weekend get-a-way, but you would have to be there to win.

After discussion there was general agreement that it needs to be inexpensive and held outdoors. Also, we should de-couple it from the Annual Meeting. We should create a “repeatable” event. As we move forward, it was discussed that we should perhaps consider changing the “nomenclature” from volunteer to leader. Due to time, discussion will continue at our next meeting.
Future Topics

- Finalize volunteer and ExComm annual appreciation
- Membership Update: 25/50 year membership pins; qualifiers; etc.
- Microsites vs. Orphan Sites: What’s the best structure to balance both committee content and chapter website?
- Mountain Passages: what is the future direction of our newsletter.
- Ad-hoc Education Committee report
- Clothing and fleece, vision of branding
- How to or “if” to offer CPR to trip leaders
- Huts Nights: to what degree the Chapter should continue to underwrite these events and where in the budget should this event be placed

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2013.

Adjourned

At 8:35 a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by P. Anderson; it was seconded by G. Harding; and it was approved unanimously.

Minutes: Beth Zimmer

5/9/13