AMC NH Chapter – Minutes

Meeting Date: September 5, 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
David Ross 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
√ Michelle O’Donnell 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
√ Rick Desmarais Guest
Call to Order

K. Thurston called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Approval of June ’13 Minutes / Beth Zimmer

B. Zimmer had sent out minutes to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. Two corrections were made, clarifying S. Jamke’s report from the May 2013 Directors Meeting, and T. Todd’s comment distinguishing trip leader recognition from volunteer recognition. A motion was made by M. Manseau to approve the minutes as presented; it was seconded; there was no discussion or comment and the motion was approved unanimously.

B. Zimmer inquired about “what should happen” to minutes of our meeting. J. Kent made a suggestion, which became a motion, that final, approved minutes be submitted to our Webmaster for publication on the web. There was brief discussion and general consensus that beginning with the 2013 minutes, that these will be publicized in a public area. Minutes from the years prior to 2013 will be placed in an area accessible to ExComm members. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

Status of Annual Report

B. Zimmer noted that most of the committee reports had been submitted and that the Annual Report will be ready on time. Fifty copies will be made.

Review of Summer ’13 Treasurer’s Report / Bill Warren

B. Warren had sent out treasurer reports to ExComm members via a prior e-mail, reflecting finances through the end of August. He had subsequently learned that the AMC will be sending out all funds electronically, (not just the chapter allocation), which will result in having to revise the August numbers. Adjusted figures will be in the area of donations to ExComm and in membership. Anyone desiring a corrected August report should contact B. Warren. The reports were received without question or comment.

We are under-spending in relation to the requests made during the budget process. Members were reminded that funds not used, cannot be carried over into 2014.

B. Warren received an interesting document from R. Scholl regarding the AMC not giving the Chapter the same percentage as it had prior to the Club raising the dues. Figures suggest that there are hundreds of thousands of dollars in the Club treasury. B. Warren expressed that we should use our members money, not “save it” per se; we should use the monies that come in for the needs of our membership, such as through programming, etc. There is no need to have large amounts of cash sitting in the liquid state in a checking account. The NH Chapter will continue to invest in leaders and its members. Although other chapters may charge a small fee
for outings, our chapter has offered hundreds of trips, most of them free; we will continue to do just that.

Directors’ Meeting - Report Out / Sam Jamke

S. Jamke has not been a board of directors meeting since May. She reported that R. Scholl’s last day will be September 30. His focus was with the chapters he served and with volunteer relations. He was also very involved with the volunteer managed facilities. In a week or two there should be an announcement regarding his replacement. His shoes will be tough to fill. He is not moving and will remain as a volunteer trip leader.

The Fall Gathering is coming up in October.

S. Jamke is involved with discussions about the Maine Woods initiative. Medawisla is closed for renovations. An announcement regarding it’s purpose, branding, etc., is a year or two away.

Next Meeting: Date and Food

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 3, 2013.

Thanks go out to the Young Members Committee for tonight’s dinner; the Mountaineering Committee will provide October’s food.

Fleece

P. Berry shared that the stock of NH Chapter fleece is several years old. We are running out of certain sizes. M. Berry and P. Berry run ads in the newsletters resulting in some sales, and they sell quite a few at Annual Meeting. We still have 104 fleece items. A question was asked if we have recovered our initial investment? However, due to the number of years ago we purchased the fleece, we don’t know. There was discussion if it was time to liquidate what is left at reduced amounts. The Berry’s asked if anyone would be willing to pick up the fleece and sell it at the annual meeting; Rick Desmarais volunteered to house the fleece. Discussion continued: should we be in the fleece business; should we bring the fleece products to the Annual Meeting, sell them at 50%, and use the leftover items for volunteer appreciation? There was consensus that we should first have a careful discussion about the future of fleece. There was also consensus that at the Annual Meeting, we will sell off at inventory at a 50% price reduction. Further, for those interested, an ad hoc group and conversation will occur at 8:30 after the close
of the business meeting, and that this will be an agenda / action item at our next month’s meeting.

Annual Dinner Meeting – October 26

W. Goertel reviewed of the slate of nominations for officers and committee chairs: green are new people; blue for those leaving; and yellow for where openings exist. All committees are filled with leadership except Young Members. Every committee has at least one chair, although several committees continue to desire a co-chair. M. Stanton announced that John Pillar is coming on board as Paddling Co-Chair. He leads the Wednesday night paddling series. He will make a great addition. He also runs the weekly messages.

Tom Sintro’s term is up on mountaineering. Jim Kent said there was a plan to address his vacancy.

Education would like a co-chair.

K. Thurston reminded all that NonComm and ExComm members can come to Annual Meeting with a guest and that they should talk to P. Anderson ASAP. We pay per plate, so please only sign up if you are coming. A suggestion was made to send out a reminder and list of those attending on October 8.

Two, 50-year members will be in attendance.

Canterbury Woods has a facility capacity of 144; we have about 40+ signed up at the moment.

In the past, most registrations came from the paper newsletter. Yet this year, we have had more PayPals than checks from the newsletter. P. Anderson reported that the new PayPal system has made it easy to register and pay.

J. Varney said that Excursions will send out a notice about our Annual Meeting and program to everyone who went to Cardigan school. M. Berry will post a notice on our Facebook page. K. Thurston will send out an e-mail blast.

B. Zimmer will get the annual report to the printer by September 25; 50 copies will be ordered; two placed on each table; pdf file sent to T. Todd for the publication to the web; and a copy sent to Joy Street.
Calendar with focus on Nov-Dec Events

October 1 - Deadline to submit articles to Newsletter Committee for Mountain Passages & website publication. Send articles to M. O'Donnell, but please also ‘cc’ R. Janowitz.

Volunteer Appreciation Event – December 5

K. Thurston reported that on December 5, our chapter will hold a volunteer recognition event at the Currier Art Gallery in Manchester. A contract has been signed: $1295 covers 60 people; live music; access to their winter garden; the museum will be open with free docent led tours; a cash bar; we will have our own room “AMC” room; food in the form of sandwiches; coffee, tea, etc.; the facility accommodates 60-90; the evening will be free to all chapter volunteers, but they must pay $20 per guest. There was brief discussion as to how to get the word out: we’ll put a notice in the Nov/Dec issue of Mountain Passages; and committees will send out invites to their own volunteers. K. Thurston will send out a “written summary” to committee chairs for them to use. This event is for volunteers in all capacities, not just trip leaders, but for all volunteers. T. Todd can put a link on the web. This event will be “first come, first served,” up to 90 people.

Leader Recognition Ad-Hoc Task Force

B. Warren reported out on the summary of discussion topics and findings from an ad-hoc leadership recognition task force that met recently at R. Silverberg’s house:
• They attempted to define leader appreciation and leader recognition; at the club and at the chapter level; there was agreement that the public appreciates and recognizes leaders as something special and valuable.
• All levels understand the volunteer aspect, importance, etc.
• Giving leaders reusable items such as things we wear, etc., is a good move; such as Excursions’ Velcro leader patch it recently gave out.
• Are AMC leaders special and important? There was an empathic yes.
• Leaders are the goodwill ambassadors for the Club.
• Should we do a better job of recognizing volunteers, our non-leaders; there was agreement that we don’t have a good handle on the “non-leader” volunteers and their contributions.
• Should there be minimum participation standards for recognition over a two-year cycle? Yes, but that should be handled at the “committee” level and not at the chapter level; each committee can decide what the participation level should be.
• Leaders “lead” because they want to lead, not because after three trips they will get a jacket.
• There was the question about how to recognize the leader who puts out one trip versus a leader who puts in fifteen trips; this ad hoc group felt it will up to the chairs of the individual committees to determine when and how to recognize trip leaders; each committee needs to define it for themselves.
• ExComm pays for Wilderness First Aid; active leaders get rewards at the committee level.
• Each trip leader/volunteer wants something different, so committees should try lots of things and worry less about standardization.
• During the budget process, committees may wish to consider charging fees for some events; making a little bit of profit can assist us with leader recognition.
• Older leaders are moving on; the younger leaders coming up through the ranks have different needs or desires; committees need to spend time figuring this out.
• If you are a paddling leader and you want to become a biking leader, you only have to do the mentoring aspect, not repeat the leadership training (fast track for new folks).
• The AMC process of trip registration and participant recruitment is running into the “Meetup” process; some leaders are getting frustrated with AMC tools and process; Meetup tools are having an impact on our process and we need to recognize this and adapt.
• Regarding the idea of free membership for leaders, there may be a potential problem as you would be in effect paying your leaders to be leaders; they would no longer a pure volunteer; for liability purposes, we must be cautious regarding gas cards, and the like.
• Would the chapter like to fund a Meetup site for AMC NH chapter? J. Varney said that she would like to pilot or try this at a small scale within Excursions, and report back.
• J. Green from Young Members talks to other young people with promising potential, but the mentoring requirements can seem onerous when individuals can go out with Facebook friends; it is difficult to “sell” the AMC process (attendance on 5 trips, leadership school, mentored hikes, etc.).
• In summery, all of the above discussions need to happen in man settings, but in particular at the committee level; what rewards / incentives occur at what level; while remembering that the public is part of who you are trying to reach. And in our discussions, remember too, that younger people want different things.
Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 3, 2013.

Topics:
- Meetup Tools (J. Varney)
- Fleece
- 2014 Programs Direction

To Be Discussed

- Mountain Passages: what is the future direction of our newsletter
- Ad-hoc Education Committee report
- 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

Adjournment

At 8:42 W. Goertel made a motion to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded and approved unanimously.

Minutes: Beth Zimmer
9/5/13