AMC NH Chapter – Minutes

Meeting Date: February 6, 2014

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH

Members in Attendance:
√ Wayne Goertel (via conference call) Chair
√ Bill Warren Vice Chair
√ Rick Desmarais Treasurer
√ Beth Zimmer Secretary
Karen Thurston Past Chair
√ Gene Harding Biking
√ Paul Hopkins Conservation
Eric L. Savage Education
Jennifer Varney Excursions Co-Chair
√ David Ross Excursions Co-Chair
√ LuAnn Laquerre Hospitality Chair
Marianne Page Membership Co-Chair
Ed Parker Membership Co-Chair
√ Jim Kent Mountaineering Co-Chair
√ Tom Sintro Co-Chair Mountaineering Co-Chair
Susan Englert Newsletter Editor
√ Ron Janowitz Newsletter Editor
Michelle O’Donnell Newsletter Editor
√ John Pilla 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
√ Joshua Meltzer Young Members Chair
√ Larry Yetter Guest (Treasurer, Excursions)
√ Wanda Rice Guest (Family Group, Excursions)
Call to Order

Bill Warren called the meeting to order at 7:00. Wayne Goertel, Chair, was available via a telephone conference line.

Paul and Marie Berry, from the Programs Committee, were thanked for tonight’s dinner!

Dinner schedule:
- March: Conservation & Education
- April: Hospitality & Newsletter
- May: Excursions
- June: Membership
- September: Mountaineering
- October: Paddling
- November: Ski & Trails
- December: Young Members & Biking

Approval of November ’13 Minutes / Beth Zimmer

Beth Zimmer had sent out minutes to ExComm members via a prior e-mail.

A motion was made by Paul Berry to approve the minutes as presented; it was seconded; there was no discussion or comment and the motion was approved unanimously.

Review of November ‘13 Treasurer’s Report / Rick Desmarais

Rick Desmarais had sent out treasurer reports to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. As a summary, we finished off 2013 with investments at just over $88,000, which is a net gain of approximately $6500 from 2012. The reports were received without question or comment.

2014 Budget

Preliminary Discussion: Bill Warren summarized that last year our chapter ran 411 activities most of which were free. As we have discussed in the past, it may be time for the committees to consider charging for activities as a way to help offset their budgets (for example, raising participant fees in order to help pay for leader certification and training).

Bill Warren asked members to consider that last year we budgeted for monies that were unspent (approximately $13K), that perhaps could have been used elsewhere, such as “leader appreciation.”

The Chapter has a projected allocation (income) of $41,390 with budget requests on the table for $54,369 (operation & capital expenditures). A question was put to the members if we
wanted to set a “budget target” as we have in the past. After discussion, it was agreed to not set a target, but to look at each committee’s request independently.

The group was reminded that there will be a mid-year review and that committees can bring forward unanticipated requests for expenditure at that time.

**Biking:** Gene Harding explained that new in the budget this year is a request to purchase bike shirts for ride leaders. There is a minimum order of 25 shirts. The committee will set a standard that leaders getting a shirt must lead 2-3 rides per year. Presently there are 20 ride leaders and about 10 are active. Wayne Goertel suggested that this cost $1150 come from capital expense. There was no further discussion on the remaining part of the budget request of $1725.

**Newsletter:** Ron Janowitz explained that while the budget request is less than asked for last year, it is $1500 over what was actually spent. He continued that while we can predict printing costs and mailing, it is difficult to predict advertising revenue income. Upon inquiry, he explained that presently the electronic and paper versions of the newsletter share a 50/50 split. While going “electronic” could save money in this line item, he explained that large numbers of members get all Chapter information exclusively from our paper newsletter, and that in turn, this contributes to income via continued membership, etc. There was no further discussion on their budget request $11,010.

**Webmaster:** Bill Warren explained that we have a budget request of $2025, somewhat unidentified in nature. After discussion, it agreed to trim the request and to place $500 in the budget for Website hosting, etc.

**ExComm:** Last year the addition of our chapter-sponsored Volunteer Appreciation Night resulted in overspent monies in the ExComm budget. This year’s request reflects projected actual expenditures. A line item for $1500, for annual meeting raffle prizes, was “zeroed out;” all agreed that this item is better placed in hospitality.

**Hut Night:** Bill Warren noted that ExComm has underwritten “Hut Nights” for a number of years and that we have past history of offering this activity. He offered that a possible change should perhaps include underwriting participation for NH members only. We have raised the price from $89.50 to $98.50 to help with increasing hut costs. There has been discussion that perhaps Hut Night should be under the Excursions budget. Bill Warren asked David Ross, Excursions, how he felt about that, and David Ross declined to comment at this time without first consulting with Excursions Committee members.

**Excursions:** David Ross explained that the Excursions budget includes the Presidential Range Hike, the Winter Hiking Series, winter and Spring School at Cardigan, and Family Overnight activities, which is offset via monies from the Bernice Johnson Memorial Fund. Budget requests totaled $1100. Bill Warren expressed concern that activities doing well were being shown as income neutral. Further, he questioned if Excursions could afford to fund its own requests, as it presently had $20K in the bank. Larry Yetter, Treasurer reminded ExComm members that Excursions still to pay for Cardigan Winter School and that we presently do not have a good handle on what the “real amount” of reserves on hand are until after bills are paid. David Ross felt that while Excursions could possibly absorb requests (as they did last year) that he was hesitant to make this a continued precedent. The Committee made no final decision about
Excursions’ budget request, and agreed to revisit their budget after reviewing the other committee requests.

**Hospitality:** LuAnn Laquerre explained that the proposed budget of $893 includes an annual meeting prize of an “overnight stay” at an AMC facility. There was discussion as to whether we should budget for an overnight stay, and whether this would attract people to annual meeting. After discussion, it was agreed to put $500 in the budget for prizes to be determined later (not an overnight stay per se). The budget proposal was amended and went forward as $850.

**Membership:** While the committee has a budget of $2900, there was no financial request made of the Chapter as they are generating money via the online renewal portal and that this income covers their expenses.

**Mountaineering:** Jim Kent and Tom Sintros walked members through a budget request of $4850. They explained that this request is in line with last year. There were questions about a line item for $1000 and the proposal to send two mountaineering leaders to an avalanche course in British Columbia; Jim Kent and Tom Sintros indicated that will come back with more information on this request, and further, will determine if this course brings skills or training necessary for our NH-based activities. There was also questions about budgeting for AMGA training that no one has signed up for as of yet, and for a line item that reserves money for training not yet identified. The budget request was reduced and went forward as $3850.

**Announcements**

Given the late hour, it was agreed to table the review of the other budget committee requests until our March meeting.

On the March agenda, ExComm may wish to consider a resolution that each committee set parameters for what they consider to be an “active leader.”

On the March agenda, will be discussion about perhaps establishing a Communications Committee, which would incorporate both the newsletter and web venues. This change might facilitate our generating a more consistent message across all communication platforms. This would require bylaw changes.

Biking received a “windfall” resource in November of “90 bike rides accompanied with cue sheets and maps.”

**Adjournment**

At 8:52, Bill Warren made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded and approved unanimously.
**Future Items**

- Continue and conclude review of budget requests (March)
- Resolution that each committee set parameters for what they consider to be an “active leader” (March)
- Discussion about the idea of having a Communications Committee (March)
- Report from Excursions regarding the trial roll out of using Meetup for trip registration (March)

**Minutes: Beth Zimmer**

2/6/14