AMC NH Chapter – Minutes 3/6/14

Meeting Date: March 6, 2014

Meeting Location: Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH

Members in Attendance:
✓ Wayne Goertel 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 (via telephone) Mountaineering Co-Chair
  Tom Sintros 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
  Guest
  Guest
Call to Order

Wayne Goertel called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Paul Hopkins and Eric Savage, from the Conservation and Education Committees, were thanked for tonight’s dinner.

Upcoming dinner schedule:
- April: Hospitality & Newsletter
- May: Excursions
- June: Membership
- September: Mountaineering
- October: Paddling
- November: Ski & Trails
- December: Young Members & Biking

Approval of February ’14 Minutes / Beth Zimmer

Beth Zimmer had sent out minutes to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. There was a small wording clarification made to the paragraph pertaining to the budget request from the Membership Committee.

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 Treasurer’s Report / Rick Desmarais

Rick Desmarais had sent out treasurer reports to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. As a summary, the chapter has in excess of $87,986, and there will be an additional increase when invested reserves come to us from the Club.

Complete the 2014 Budget Review (Discussion Continuation from February’s Meeting)

Paddling: They have a $1400 request for two white-water boats to be used during white water school (under capital expenses) and a $5040 request for leadership training. Paddling has two trailers: the first is six tiers high; the second is smaller and holds ten boats. They feel they are able to haul the new white-water boats. Upon inquiry, they explained that white-water school is $160 for non-members and $125 for members. Paddling committee provides participants with free use of the boats during water-water school. When asked, they outlined that they have 37 boats, the majority of which are “recreational” paddling boats. There was no further discussion on their request.
Programs: A budget request was submitted for three "pot-luck" programs and three "dinner" programs. Expenses of $13,206, minus anticipated revenue of $6915, results in a request of $6291 from the Chapter. Paul Berry outlined a few changes in programs and venues that have occurred since the original request was submitted. This resulted in Programs reducing their request to $5491. The largest expense is Annual Meeting. FYI: This year’s Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 25, 2014 at the Grappone Conference Center. There was no further discussion on their request.

Skiing: A budget request was submitted for ski tuning supplies, books (to be taken to all schools and workshops), leadership training and membership, etc. Moving forward, Skiing is going to take over “avalanche training” from the Mountaineering Committee; the shift in financial requests related to avalanche training will occur in the 2015 budget. A line item request for $2000 towards leadership training is written so that it can be used towards a variety of training. It was noted, that no income is shown from any of the activities they run, such as Telemark and Cross-Country training workshops. Their request for $5150 moved forward.

Trails: A request for $275 was made, to include chain saw training, tools, food for volunteers and supplies. This request moved forward.

Young Members: A request for $1325 was made, to include a number of monthly events, leadership scholarships, inter-chapter events and the like. Reflecting a corrected change to the actual cost of leadership training, their request moved forward as $1485.

Excursions: The Excursions Committee withdrew their request for $1100 as they have sufficient funds in their checking account to cover this year’s operating costs. They were asked to come back at the mid-year budget review with capital expenses to be used towards their leaders.

Mountaineering: There was no further discussion on the request from Mountaineering, and the budget request, as amended at last month’s meeting, moved forward.

Summary: A follow-up with a total number will be made available at next month’s meeting.

New Member Post Cards

With a three-month supply of new member post cards left, the question was raised if we should invest in a new supply of postcards. Presently, a colorful, glossy postcard is mailed to each new member. Costs to the Chapter include the price of the card, itself, and postage. It is unclear if there is value in sending this to new members, as they already receive a welcome letter (dual sided, with both a Club and Chapter message). Perhaps if the text on the back of the postcard was updated to invite new members to explore a variety of activities, it might have more value. We will revisit this topic next month.
Leader Recognition

Bill Warren explained that several members of ExComm have asked that this group engage in a discussion regarding what defines “active leadership and the threshold for benefits.” With items in the budget within several committees for sizeable financial requests for training expenditures, it would seem appropriate to have this conversation.

David Ross from Excursions outlined how they have defined active leadership in relation to receiving benefits (such as SOLO and CPR).

Excursions:

SECTION 3 Any person who has led an Excursions Committee trip or activity within the past three years is an Active Trip Leader. SECTION 4 Any person who is on the roster of Trip Leaders but has not led an Excursions Committee trip or activity in the past three years is an Inactive Trip Leader. We define activity as volunteering for the committee in a capacity such as instructing at a workshop or doing committee work as an officer or similar (not going into the details here).

Tony Schmidt from Skiing outline that they define an active leader as someone who has lead six trips in two years and that winter school can only count as one.

Bill Warren read a draft for a proposed by-law change, which would charge certain committees with defining what constitutes an active leader; each committee would be able to create their own definition, independent of how other committees might define an active leader.

“The following committees: Biking, Excursions, Mountaineering, Paddling, Ski, Trails and Young Members, shall establish criteria for a definition(s) of what constitutes an active or inactive leader and/or member of the committee, and to further establish eligibility for receiving any or all benefits provided by the club, Chapter, and or Committee for active or inactive leaders and/or members.”

As discussion continued, it was added that perhaps a policy such as the above might only be necessary when monies are being provided for training from the Chapter level. If the Committee covers the funds internally, perhaps that would not be included within any proposed by-law change.

Paul Berry asked if we needed such a by-law change if our current practices are working. Eric Savage noted that what has changed is that ExComm is investing much more money in leadership training and certification than in the past.

It was noted that one benefit of having a definition of what constitutes an active leader in writing, is that if there is a leadership change within a committee, that there is information in writing to guide decisions.

It was agreed to continue this discussion at our next meeting.
Meetup

The Excursions Committee has created a Meetup site and has been running some hikes and events through this site. They will give a report of their early impressions at the meeting in April.

Communications

Wayne Goertel outlined that he would like ExComm to explore a method or structure that would allow for more cohesively managed communications and “consistent message” across all formats (paper, web and newsletter, etc.). We begin discussion on this topic at the April Meeting.

Adjournment

At 8:39 Ron Janowitz made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

Future Items

- Review of the final, or grand total, of the 2014 budget requests (March)
- Discussion if we should set forth a 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 initial impressions of using Meetup for trip registration (March)
- Clarify a process for allowing a small amount of latitude within budget expenditures
- New Member Postcards (March)

Minutes: Beth Zimmer
3/6/14