AMC NH Chapter Minutes

Meeting Date: October 2, 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 Co-Chair
Doria Harris Biking Co-Chair
✓ Paul Hopkins Conservation Chair
✓ Eric L. Savage Education Chair
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 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
✓ Faith Salter AMC Director of Volunteer Relations (Guest)
✓ Brian Morin Prospective Electronic Communications and Social Media Coordinator (Guest)
✓ Kevin Rooney Prospective Excursions Co-Chair (Guest)
Call to Order

Wayne Goertel called the meeting to order at 7:03.

Thanks went out to Marie and Paul Berry for tonight’s beef stew dinner.

Upcoming dinner schedule:

- November: Ski & Trails
- December: Young Members & Biking

Introductions were made among members, prospective members and guests.

Approval of September Minutes / Beth Zimmer

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

Beth reported one correction, or addition to the minutes. In response to Wayne Goertel handing out AMC water bottles at last month’s meeting, the Mountaineering Co-Chairs both noted that while the AMC water bottle highlighted many of the club’s activities, neither climbing nor mountaineering was represented in any fashion.

Beth thanked committee chairs for submitting their annual reports in on time. All reports have been reviewed and edited by both Wayne Goertel and Beth.

A motion was made by LuAnn Laquerre to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. There were no additional comments and the motion to approve the minutes as noted above was unanimous.

Review of Treasurer’s Report / Rick Desmarais

Rick Desmarais had sent out a treasurer’s report to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. Monies are being spent as budgeted and planned for. Invested reserves continue to do well. There was no further discussion or comment.
Review Current Slate of Nominations

Wayne Goertel shared that there is an update to the Excursions Committee nominations, in that Kevin Rooney will be taking over for Jen Varney.

On the Mountaineering Committee, Tom Sintro and Jim Kent are both stepping down. Presently, there is not a clear individual who would like to step forward as Chair or Co-Chair. Wayne Goertel and Bill Warren explained that at a recent Mountaineering Committee meeting, a group of leaders discussed how the group might continue to operate without a chair, perhaps by dividing the workload. That said, Joe Dorsheimer, of the Mountaineering Committee, was in attendance to learn more about ExComm meetings.

NH Chapter Annual Meeting Update – October 25, 2014

The annual report is almost ready to be sent to print. Paul Berry is sending out an e-mail blast to members this coming Saturday. Tom Todd is publicizing the event on our website. Thus far we have only fifteen paid attendees along with a number of free attendees. Paul explained that in a worst-case scenario, the event will cost the Chapter $4400, which fortunately, we can absorb within our budget. Paul is attempting to negotiate fees with the facility management, who will hopefully take into consideration that we are a non-profit.

Invitations have not yet been sent to our 25 and 50-year members. Traditionally we send out a certificate and letter inviting them to a free dinner. Marianne Page is working with Wayne Goertel to get this done; a mailed invitation will go out within the next week.

Marie Berry noted that venue prices continue to rise and that this year the non-member price to attend Annual Meeting broke the $40 barrier. She wondered if rising prices are a contributing factor to low turnout. Moving forward, considering a daytime event might present a lower-cost alternative.

Review of Bylaws Updates / Bill Warren & Eric Savage

Wayne Goertel referred members to a summary that Eric Savage had sent out via prior e-mail. Eric reminded members that the bylaw changes were already voted on at prior meetings, and that the only thing he did was to craft the actual wording of those approved changes. Eric led members through a final review discussion and approval process.
ARTICLE IV

SECTION 1 - The administration of the Chapter shall be vested in an Executive Committee whose voting members are the Chapter Chair, Chapter Vice Chair, Chapter Secretary, Chapter Treasurer, Standing Committee Chairs and Immediate Past Chair. Each member of the Executive Committee present at a meeting shall have one vote regardless of the number of positions held, provided that no Standing Committee shall have more than two votes.

Discussion: There was no further discussion and the above wording was approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE IV

SECTION 4 - The Executive Committee shall schedule not less than four in-person meetings each year. At scheduled in-person meetings, four members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Discussion: Bill Warren wondered that in light of our ability to use GoToMeeting, electronic voting, and other e-tools, if we needed to have a provision that mandated four meetings a year. Beth Zimmer expressed that while we do offer GoToMeeting, given the work of our chapter and the financial resources we manage, setting a minimum of four meetings did not seem unreasonable; she further explained how difficult it is to get through our agenda within our eight scheduled meetings per year. There was no further discussion and the above wording was approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE IV

SECTION 7 - The Regional Director representing the Chapter, and any member of the Chapter elected to membership on the Club’s Board of Directors shall thereby become a non-voting member ex-officio of the Executive Committee during such term of office.

Discussion: Eric Savage noted that this was a straightforward clarification of existing practice. There was no further discussion and the above wording was approved by voice vote.
ARTICLE IV

SECTION 9 – If a motion is proposed by a member of the Executive Committee to the Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary, and the Chapter Chair, or if he/she is unavailable, the Vice Chair, determines that action on the motion cannot be delayed until the next scheduled meeting, discussion and voting may be conducted by electronic means.

The motion shall be distributed to the Executive Committee via such electronic means, to obtain a seconding of the motion, and to begin discussion. Unless otherwise agreed, discussion will be open for seven days following distribution of the motion, and voting will take place on or before the eighth day. The Chapter Chair, or if he/she is unavailable, the Vice Chair, retains the right to table the motion until the next scheduled meeting.

Votes shall be submitted to the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, and the results will be reported to the Executive Committee. A majority vote of the Executive Committee is required to pass the motion.

Discussion: The addition of electronic voting would be new for our chapter. The only discussion was that we clarify that electronic voting could take place on or before seven days, and that on the eighth day the Chair would announce the decision. There was no further discussion and the above wording was approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 2 - The Conservation and Education Committee shall be responsible for enabling Club members to enhance their knowledge and enjoyment of, and to stay informed about current issues facing, the natural environment. This may be accomplished through activities and educational opportunities that have a conservation theme, and by sponsoring conservation workdays. This committee shall encourage members to become informed about relevant legislative and advocacy issues, and to participate in Club-sponsored efforts to further conservation aims.

Discussion: Tom Todd spoke in favor of retaining education as a goal of this committee. He suggested modifying the wording to reflect that the focus of this committee “may include conservation.” Beth Zimmer noted that there was
consensus at our most recent meeting that the education was being conducted within the standing activity committees and that recorded group consensus was that conservation was to be the primary focus of this committee. There was no further discussion and the proposed wording stood as presented.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 6 - The Newsletter Editor(s) shall be responsible for laying out, proofing and distributing each newsletter to the Chapter membership. They shall be responsible for securing the printer and mailing lists and communicating newsletter deadlines to all Officers and Standing Committees of the Chapter. All articles must come from an Officer or committee of the Chapter, or be subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

Discussion: Paul Berry moved that the above be modified to the “Newsletter Committee,” which would bring their responsibilities and expectations into alignment with the other committees. This modification was approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 8 - The Program Committee shall be responsible for planning, scheduling and administering all Chapter Meetings identified in Article V, and other programs of general interest, including locating venues, establishing prices, and securing speakers for each dinner program. This committee shall be responsible for receiving registrations and payments for all programs, checking attendees in as they arrive, and providing name badges. All monies received shall be given to the Chapter Treasurer. This committee shall be responsible for submitting event notices and providing a registration form for publication. The Program Committee Chair(s) shall preside at Dinner Programs in the absence of both the Chapter Chair and Vice Chair.

Discussion: Eric Savage explained that as previously agreed to, the above wording reflects a merging of hospitality and programs. Further, the wording attempts to refrain from “micro-managing” what members of the committee are expected to do. There was no further discussion and the proposed wording stood as presented.
ARTICLE VI

SECTION 11 - The Webmaster shall be responsible for maintaining and updating the Chapter website. Ongoing and upcoming events as well as appropriate information from AMC Outdoors, the Chapter Newsletter and the Executive Committee shall be posted.

Discussion: Paul Berry moved that the above be modified to the “Web Site Committee,” which would bring responsibilities and expectations into alignment with the other committees. This modification was approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 13 – In these by-laws, the term Standing Committee Chair(s) or Co-Chair(s) shall include the Newsletter Editor(s) and Webmaster(s). Any power or responsibility assigned to, or limitation applying to, Standing Committees shall also be assigned to, or apply to, the Newsletter Editor(s) and Webmaster(s).

Discussion: This section was eliminated, as the modified wording to the Newsletter Committee and Web Site Committee sections, now negated the need for this provision. The elimination of this section was approved by voice vote.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 15 - The Chapter Treasurer shall have the authority to review the finances of all standing committees, with the knowledge of the respective committee, and to correct such problems as might be found, unless otherwise instructed by the Chapter Executive Committee. Any committee maintaining its own financial account(s) shall include the Chapter Treasurer as an authorized signatory on all such accounts. Committees with such accounts shall prepare and submit monthly reports to the Chapter, and shall prepare an audit report annually, and send it with backup data to the Club Headquarters, as requested by the Club. A copy of that audit report must be submitted to the Chapter Treasurer.

Discussion: Eric Savage reminded members that the above changes were approved several meetings ago. The above clarification gives the chapter treasurer the important tools necessary for oversight and support of committee finances. There was no further discussion and the above wording was approved by voice vote.
Volunteer Small Presentation / Bill Warren

Bill Warren reminded members that we have numerous leaders all around the state. He became aware that in the Maine Chapter, there exists the practice of encouraging leaders to offer “small programs.” Examples might include a 45-minute library presentation on snowshoeing, a slide show, or some other mini presentation to a small group. Leaders would submit proposals through our online trip listing as they would for any other activity. By doing this, we could expand our capacity to reach more members, in more corners of the state. Bill reasoned that ten leaders, reaching ten people each, would net us 100 individuals who have been impacted by our chapter activities. Bill asked members to consider including these mini-presentations as activities that would count towards what constitutes active leadership.

Sam Jamke shared that she has conducted mini presentations and slide shows. David Ross offered a small slide show at a church a year ago. Marianne Page spoke in favor of the proposal. Marie Berry reminded members of Ellen Ruggles’ recent program on trekking to Mt. Everest Base Camp. Gene Harding spoke in favor of the proposal. Beth Zimmer suggested that small presentations on basic bicycle repairs (tires, chains) could be a good idea. Eric Savage mentioned that we used to offer new member dinners.

Bill Warren continued that the goal of this proposal is to expand our efforts to reach out to more members, especially the ones we’re not currently tapping into. Leaders could share their talent and stories; perhaps, even sponsoring a presentation with someone selling hiking boots might still get credit.

Bill asked if members would bring this proposal back to their respective activity committees for discussion and consideration, and if committees would consider allowing this practice for credit in defining what constitutes active leadership.

There was consensus that all activity members would bring this idea back to their respective committees for discussion.

Cardigan Volunteer Trail Crews / Richie Holstein

Richie Holstein began by reminding members that the Cardigan trails have been maintained by a volunteer trail crew. The organizer resigned, which has led to some discussion about how to continue to care for the trails. Given the history of the chapter’s involvement with the lodge, Richie would like to see us continue with on-going support. He continued that we need volunteers, ideas, and perhaps someone interested in spearheading these efforts.

Rick Silverberg emphasized that a special need exists to have a dedicated Cardigan Trail Crew. The trails often receive heavy ice storm and winter damage, and that the trails receive heavy use. It is important to have certified “sawyers”
and a key group of Cardigan-specific volunteers who will show up for trail work. He emphasized that it is important to resurrect this volunteer trail crew.

Faith Salter added that in addition to the volunteer trail crew, there is a teen trail crew that comes in over the summer. Also, there are three AMC sponsored trail work weekend as well as the Ski Committee trail work weekend. She inquired if the NH Chapter would like to adopt one of the weekends and train people to conduct trail work.

Richie Holstein added that the prior organizer did an incredible amount of work. He coordinated all of the activity. Whoever takes over or resurrects the trail crew, would need to be more inclusive of AMC club participation.

Tom Todd stated that he sees this as an opportunity. We can ask Faith Salter the Club to gather a list of present trail adopters; maybe we can harness their power, bring their energy together.

Eric Savage wondered if we need to consider a hybrid model, combing specific trail adopters, and a Cardigan trail crew organizer, along with professional crews.

Bill Warren added that the NH Chapter has a unique relationship with Cardigan. Maybe we can reach out to someone within the group to step up in a leadership capacity. They can become a subcommittee of the trails committee.

Richie shared that when the AMC advertises for Cardigan trail work weekend, the lodge is filled to capacity with paying members.

Faith added that efforts to resurrect a Cardigan trail crew would take a lot of coordination. She suggested that Richie and a few interested people might consider meeting with Alex DeLucia, AMC Trails Volunteer Coordinator. Faith emphasized that Alex is committed to making Cardigan trail work happen despite the recent resignation, and that including the NH Chapter is part of the solution.

Beth Zimmer and Eric Savage wondered if an ad hoc committee was called for. Wayne Goertel asked members interested in this committee, approach Richie and Faith at the end of the meeting.

Newsletter Team Update / Ron Janowitz

Ron Janowitz introduced two new AMC NH Chapter volunteers to members. Jessica Clifford is coming onboard as our new graphic designer for Mountain Passages. Brian Morin will be joining us in the capacity of Electronic Communications and Social Media Coordinator. Members thanked Jessica and Brian for volunteering, and welcomed them with a round of applause.
Outgoing ExComm

Wayne Goertel took a moment to thank the outgoing member Marie Berry for her years of dedicated service. Members gave her a warm round of applause.

OLDC – Outdoor Leader Development Committee

Rick Silverberg mentioned that there will be a leadership gathering this coming March 20-22, 2015. He encouraged individuals involved in leadership training in all of the activity committees to consider becoming involved in this weekend opportunity.

Motion to Adjourn

At 8:40, Beth Zimmer made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

Future Items

- Communications Ad Hoc Committee – ongoing discussion (June ‘14)
- Clarify a process for allowing a small amount of latitude within the budget expenditures. (February ‘14)
- NH Wild – someone to take a leadership role (June ’14)
- Leave No Trace Master Training – update (June ’14)
- Online / direct sales of AMC NH clothing and gear (May ’14)
- WFA training: 1/ Peter Hope’s replacement; 2/ Notice on the Excursions Message Board; 3/ Nubble Bay weekend (September ’14)
- Newsletter article urging chapter members to sign up for weekly updates (September ’14)
- Update on newsletter editor position (September ’14)

Minutes: Beth Zimmer
10/2/14