AMC NH Chapter Minutes

Meeting Date:  February 5, 2015

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 & Education Co-Chair
✓ Eric L. Savage  Conservation & Education Co-Chair
✓ Kevin Rooney  Excursions Co-Chair
David Ross  Excursions Co-Chair
Marianne Page  Membership Chair
Tom Sintros  Mountaineering Co-Chair
✓ Joe Dorsheimer  Mountaineering Co-Chair
✓ Ron Janowitz  Newsletter Co-Chair
Michelle O'Donnell  Newsletter Co-Chair
✓ Paul Berry  Paddling Co-Chair
✓ John Pilla  Paddling Co-Chair
LuAnn Laquerre  Programs Chair
✓ “Sam” Ruth Jamke  Regional Director, North (NH & ME)
Tony Schmidt  Ski Co-Chair
✓ Valerio Viti  Ski Co-Chair
✓ Richie Holstein  Trails Chair
Open  Website Chair
✓ Joshua Meltzer  Young Members Co-Chair
✓ Chris Higgins  Young Members (Guest)
✓ Al Grimstad  Ski Committee Newsletter (Guest)

Call to Order
Wayne Goertel called the meeting to order at 7:00.
Thanks went out to the Young Members and Biking Committees for tonight’s dinner.

Upcoming dinner schedule:
TBA

Welcome and re-introductions were made among members and guests.
Next Meeting: March 5, 2015

Approval of November Minutes / Beth Zimmer
Beth Zimmer had sent out a draft of the November minutes to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. There were a few small typo corrections and two minor clarifications made to the November minutes.

-Trails Committee and Ski Committee for tonight’s dinner
-Electronic Voting: Sam Jamke noted that all of our meetings are open to members (as a courtesy and not by any written rule), with the exception of personnel matters.

A motion was made by Paul Berry to approve the minutes as amended; this was seconded and approved unanimously.

Review of Treasurer’s Report / Rick Desmarais
Members decided to move this item to the “Budget” portion of the agenda.

Quick Briefing About AMC Annual Summit in Norwood / Wayne Goertel
Several members attended the AMC’s Annual Summit about two weeks ago. Wayne Goertel had sent a communication to members via a prior email.

The Club is going through a website redesign that will be more mobile friendly. Chapter leadership continues to have concerns that the Club is not giving adequate exposure to chapter events.

Sam Jamke added that in the future, the Club will be inviting chapters to host their presence on the Club website. This will be optional and will incur some initial fees and maintenance fees. This will both require and “generate” discussion at a future time.

AMC Northern Regional Director Nominations / Sam Jamke
Sam Jamke reminded members that her term ends next January 2016. The deadline for nominees approaches and she passed out a handout summarizing Regional Director expectations and projected commitments. The practice has been to have our NH/ME Regional Director serve a six-year commitment (maximum), comprised of three, two-year terms.

Paul Berry noted that six years ago, NH and ME joined together and created a subcommittee to put forth candidates. At that time, both chapters had agreed on Sam Jamke, and had presented her as their recommendation. Paul would recommend that we do this again.

Both Sam and Wayne Goertel will have discussion with ME leadership by the end of the month. Sam mentioned that some nominations are already coming in already.

Paul continued to explain that past practice has been to alternate the Regional Director between NH and ME; thus, the next regional director will likely come from ME. Paul expressed strong interest in meeting with ME leadership.

Paul Berry made a motion that the NH Chapter reach out to ME and work collaboratively to put forth a candidate for this position. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Mountaineering Co-Chair Appointment of Tom Sintros & Joseph Dorsheimer/ Wayne Goertel

Wayne Goertel reminded members that we went through annual meeting without an official slate for the Mountaineering Committee. Tom Sintros and Joe Dorsheimer are stepping in to fill the remainder of the term. As Joe was present, he introduced himself and summarized his background. Members were already familiar with Tom Sintros as he was former Mountaineering Co-chair.

A motion to approve the appointments was made by Bill Warren; this motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Programs Committee Updates / Wayne Goertel

Co Chair: Wayne reminded member that we still need a Programs Committee Co-chair. Beth Zimmer inquired if could we write a newsletter article asking for help. Paul Berry thought this was a good idea, and that if we looked to garner helpers for events, we could perhaps cultivate ExComm leaders from this pool. Ron Janowitz explained that if we wanted to make the next newsletter deadline, that he would need a submission within the next two days. Wayne will send LuAnn Laquerre (present chair) and Paul Berry (past co-chair) a note, and between the three of them, they will get an article submitted to the newsletter.
Concord Library Programs: Paul Berry explained that the Programs Committee is looking for new programming ideas for small talks and/or presentations that could be made at the Concord Library. Working in partnership with the Concord Library, they are looking to host six events per year.

Wild NH: Wayne reminded members that the NHF&G’s Wild NH program is coming up on April 18. This event was highly successful last year, with over 5000 people in attendance that included lots of families and children. Wayne was looking for someone to spearhead our efforts; members thought that LuAnn Laquerre had offered to organize our efforts. Wayne will send out a note and will solicit folks who would like to form a working group and get this information back to LuAnn. Bill Warren wondered if we might consider asking each activity committee to find volunteers to participate and represent their respective activity. Wayne said he will take care of this.

Annual Meeting: If anyone has thoughts regarding a possible Annual Meeting venue or speaker, please give this feedback to LuAnn Laquerre.

Upcoming Meetings & Looking Forward / Wayne Goertel

March 2015: The focus of our March meeting will be on the 20’s & 30’s demographic, or Young Members. A Young Members (YM) Advisory Board is meeting in late February, and will report back in March.

April 2015: April’s agenda will included a volunteer focus.

Budget Review / Wayne Goertel & Rick Desmarais (7:40)

Rick Desmarais had sent out a budget request spreadsheet via prior e-mail.

Wayne Goertel reminded members that we get an annual allocation from the Club and in general, we want our budget requests to maintain some balance with our allocation. That said, last year we underspent from what we had proposed and thus, there are additional underutilized funds.

Rick Desmarais mentioned that in some areas, we substantially underspent our budgets. Regarding the 2015 requests, he saw nothing in particular that stuck out or was particularly new or unique from past requests and expenditures.

• ExComm – No further discussion. Final: $6215.
  o Kevin Rooney inquired if we could offer a WFA training session in May, as the November session conflicts with the Winter Hiking Series. If we offered a second WFA session, and reached more people, he wondered if we should budget more dollars. Wayne noted that a spring WFA is to be discussed and that if we incur extra costs, we would be able to absorb this and then adjust the request for subsequent years.
• **Newsletter** – Our advertising income is down and thus the budget request is up a bit from last year. Budget submission adjusted. Final: $11,520.

• **Communications / Website** – Efforts are underway to find a webmaster replacement. Monies are in the budget should our new webmaster require certain software, or “tools.” Final: $900.

• **Hut Night** – The request is slightly higher than last year, reflecting that AMC prices have gone up; we wish to keep NH member rate the same. Rick recommended adjusting the request upward, to reflect actual expenditures over the past two years. Final: $3100.

• **Bicycling** – This year’s request includes a small amount to fund some “challenges” or mileage quests. Final: $1200.

• **Excursions** – This committee is not asking for any money from ExComm. The Bernice Johnson Fund continues to support certain costs, primarily associated with family events. Excursions training events generate income for this committee.

• **Mountaineering** – There was a question about the request for AMGA (American Mountain Guide Association) training as last year it was requested but not utilized. Joe Dorsheimer explained that while our volunteers are not professional guides, this level of training benefits our chapter as a part of our risk management. Kevin Rooney asked if Mountaineering required a future commitment for subsidizing this level of training. Joe indicated that only active leaders are eligible for this training and that the concern is noted. Kevin continued that this particular request represents a tremendous expense and that we remain unclear what the benefit is. Should we promote this to folks outside the chapter as a way of promoting new mountaineering leaders? Noting that the Mountaineering Committee has some funds in their checkbook, Wayne wondered if we should ask the committee to spend down some of their checkbook funds? Valerio Viti reminded all that the Avalanche Training, a former source of income, has now been moved to the Ski Committee. Rick Desmarais recommended that we leave the request alone. Wayne clarified that the larger question is not the request per se, but rather, will they spend the money they requested and what is the vibrancy of the committee. Final: $5025.

• **Paddling** – The boat fleet is in good stead. Paddling would like to continue to move towards focusing training on white water first aid, which is far more appropriate than wilderness first aid training. Overall, Paddling is funding the
majority of their budget, with the exception of requesting funds for white water first aid. Final: $1600.

• Programs – The proposal is based on using our prior years records as a template. Eric Savage noted that the request looks smaller than last year. Paul Berry explained that we did better with Annual Meeting than we anticipated. Also, one fewer monthly dinner meeting is being planned. Final $3753.

• Ski – They are adding money for shirts for trip leaders, otherwise, their budget request is similar to last year. Final: $5812.

• Trails – Final: $265.

• Young Members (aka: 40-Below’s) – They are requesting some tent-like canopies. Bill Warren suggested this be moved to “capital” expenses. Final: $2530.

• Summary:
  o Expected allocation approximately $42,000
  o Proposed budget approximately $47,558
  o While the proposal exceeds our allocation, we have underspent our budget for the last several years.

John Pilla made a motion to approve the budget as reviewed and amended; it was seconded and approved unanimously.

Other

Communications Committee: Paul Berry expressed the need to revisit the communications committee. Wayne Goertel concurred. This will take place at a future meeting.

Chapter Website: Wayne asked members to look at our website as a few tweaks were made. He asked folks to pay particular attention to the Committee Membership section. Members should check the listing and determine what contact information they wish to have displayed (phone, e-mail, town, etc.).

Motion to Adjourn

At 8:46, John Pilla made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

Future Items
• Communications Committee – ongoing discussion (June ‘14)
• Leave No Trace Master Training – update (June ‘14)
• Online / direct sales of AMC NH clothing and gear (May ‘14)
• WFA training: set up two sessions and dates (Feb. ‘15)
• Newsletter article urging chapter members to sign up for weekly updates (September ‘14)
• Set date for Annual Meeting 2015 (October ‘14)
• YM ad hoc discussion group (November ‘14)
• Programs Committee – submit article looking for event volunteers; co-chair sought (February ‘15)
• Regional Director Candidates – NH/ME coordination (February ‘15)
• NHF&G’s Wild NH program (February ‘15)

Minutes: Beth Zimmer
2/5/15