AMC NH Chapter Minutes

Meeting Date:       March 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 |
| ✓ | Brett Billings | Newsletter Editor |
| ✓ | 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 |
| ✓ | Jamie Gilon    | Young Members Co-Chair |
| ✓ | Al Grimstad    | Ski Committee Newsletter (Guest) |
Call to Order

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

Thanks went out to the Conservation and Education Committee for tonight’s dinner.

Upcoming dinner schedule:

- April 2: Excursions
- May 7: Membership & Programs
- June 4: Mountaineering
- September 3: Newsletter & Website
- October 1: Paddling
- November 5: Ski & Trails
- December 3: Young Members

Welcomes and re-introductions were made among members and guests.

Next Meeting: April 2, 2015

Approval of November Minutes / Beth Zimmer

Beth Zimmer had sent out a draft of the February minutes to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. There were a few small typo corrections but no other corrections or additions.

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

Review of Treasurer’s Report / Rick Desmarais

Rick Desmarais had sent out a Treasurer’s report via an email. There were no questions or comments.

Wilderness First Aid Plans / Wayne Goertel

Tony Schmidt, (Ski Committee) has secured the weekend of May 16-17 for WFA training. Half of the spaces are already reserved for members of the Ski Committee; openings are available to leaders from other committees. Wayne Goertel will send out an email to the activity committee chairs, inviting them to spread the word to their trip leaders.

Peter Hope is arranging a November date, which will be announced soon. (This date was subsequently announced within Excursions as being the weekend of October 17-18, 2015.)
Calendar Items and Events / Wayne Goertel

Wayne Goertel asked Committee Chairs to summarize happenings within their committee.

**Paddling:**
- White Water School is scheduled for the weekend of April 11-12; last year there were 20 participants
- The NH Chapter will be teaching white water wilderness travel to Berkshire leaders in May
- The Boston Chapter is interested in having our chapter teaching white water rescue leadership training for their members

**Ski:**
- They had a very active February, teaching three sessions at winter school and holding ski clinics; activities will begin to tail off in March / April
- Great news to report, is that the Ski Committee applied for and now holds the designation of being a PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors Association) approved ski school and now able to hold PSIA sanctioned instruction; their school will be known as the Cardigan Mountain Ski School; this is a “huge deal” and the Ski Committee was warmly congratulated

**Mountaineering:**
- There will be a one-day glacier travel workshop in April
- Upcoming summer clinics will include top roping and leading

**Bike:**
- May 2 kicks off the biking season
- Big events scheduled include two challenges: a NH Chapter 100-mile (total) challenge; and a 10-mile ride through covered bridges
- A touring workshop is being held May 3
- They will be offering a “B2B” (back to biking) series

**Excursions:**
- Spring School at Cardigan is happening April 24-26
- Upcoming instructional opportunities will also include map & compass instruction, women’s trail work and backcountry navigation
- A leaders’ appreciation event is being planned and will be held at Pat’s Peak this fall

**Young Members:**
- An inter-chapter weekend event is planned for May
- A number of camping weekends are being planned for during the summer/fall

**Conservation & Education:**
- Discussions are underway
Trails:
• National Trails Day is upcoming in June
• There have been discussions about integrating trail work into our NH Chapter’s Spring School

Wayne Goertel wondered if we might consider offering a Chapter-wide or multi-committee event.

Several members (Paul Berry, Bill Warren, John Pilla) shared past experiences, knowledge of small triathlons, ideas regarding the logistics of utilizing boat trailers, moving bikes and the like, as well as possible venues.

Beth Zimmer wondered if we might consider sending out a request to all committees looking for volunteers who would enjoy this type of activity; for while we can talk about these ideas, they only work if we find leaders who wish to facilitate these types of events.

Eric Savage noted that for this idea to work, we would need one person at the helm.

Wayne suggested that we consider this in a series of steps: communication to the committees; target a couple of events / months / venues; and perhaps formulate a Google Group to facilitate communication.

Doria Harris inquired what our goal was, and what we hoped to accomplish by working towards planning these new events.

Wayne explained that there are people who tend to gravitate towards weekend activities, and that events such as a multi-activity event would speak to a different audience. Also, it’s a nice way to introduce people to multiple events and activities, as participants would only have to engage in short hikes or paddles, as opposed to all-day hikes and paddles.

To generate a pool of activity leaders interested in becoming involved in multi-event weekends, it was decided that Wayne would send out a message to the activity committee chairs, who in turn would send out an inquiry via their list serve to the activity trip leaders.

NHF&G’s Discover Wild NH Day / LuAnn Laquerre

This year’s NHF&G’s Discover Wild NH Day is set for April 18, from 10:00-3:00. LuAnn needs help to staff tables and represent the NH Chapter. A “double space” has already been booked. Wanda Rice said she would help.

There was discussion about the “scavenger hunt” and about developing a question that would draw kids to our table for their “stamp.”

Gene Harding said that the biking committee will help and will have a presence.
Richie Holstein mentioned that at last year’s event, mountaineering was successful in drawing crowds with their display of gear.

Paul Berry mentioned that in a prior year, Paddling brought kayaks and put paddles in the kids’ hands and that this was a good experience.

Bill Warren indicated that it would be good to have Membership there to capture new members. He suggested that each committee should try to find people to help and give their names to LuAnn.

LuAnn said that she would put together a small write-up that will go out to ExComm Plus and in turn to the activity leaders via their committee chairs.

NH Chapter Annual Meeting / LuAnn Laquerre

LuAnn Laquerre told members that our NH Chapter’s Annual meeting has been set for October 24 at the Grappone Conference Center. Prices will be the same as last year. LuAnn still needs a lead on speakers. Members generated some ideas to be followed up on.

Young Members / Wayne Goertel & Josh Meltzer

Josh Meltzer announced that the YM advisory board would like to recommend Jamie Gilon as their new co-chair. By way of introduction, Jamie has been in the YM group for 10 years and has led YM events. He has hiked all of the 48, four thousand footers. Beth Zimmer moved a motion to appoint Jamie Gilon as YM Co-Chair for the remainder of this year. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Wayne indicated that he would like to see our group strive to have a YM designated activity every weekend from May through July. He asked all of the activity committees if they could help out. He added that club-wide, it is a challenge to find individuals in the YM demographic (20’s and 30’s) to become trip leaders. Wayne would like to see us kick off a “spring” of YM activities.

John Pilla wondered how we would target just YM? For example, if he were to arrange a paddling event, how would this target YM as opposed to the general public?

Wayne offered that one idea might include having a YM member co-lead with an experienced activity leader. Also, a leader so willing, even without a YM leader, could lead a hike targeting young members. These events would be posted on the YM Facebook site.

Gene Harding noted that YM tend to be interested in activities with a social context.
Doria Harris added that the multi-activity events we were discussing earlier might appeal to young people.

Josh Meltzer shared that there are already weekend events the works (such as camping), but what is still needed are events such as a series of hikes and/or smaller events to fill in the gap in between the larger weekend events.

There was continued discussion about whether YM is looking for leaders to completely run activities, or whether they need leaders to partner with a YM leader. Several members wondered if YM should create a wish list of activities?

Paul Berry indicated that the Paddling Committee would offer to expedite leadership training for any YM candidate so interested.

Beth Zimmer thought it would be easier to get activity leaders to help out if there was a “scaffolding” of ideas from YM. If they put together a “wish list,” (such as one paddling event in July; one hike on Monadnock in July, etc.) then this wish list could be disseminated to the leaders. Without a list of ideas, it would be difficult for volunteers to know what type of activity (duration, location, difficulty, leading alone, co-leading, etc.) to offer.

David Ross concurred that more organizational work is needed from the YM Committee.

Doria Harris wondered if we have asked or surveyed YM as to what they want? Members felt that this was a good idea.

Josh Meltzer indicated that he will assemble a wish list of sorts of activity ideas, farm that out to ExComm Plus, who will then send out the request to the activity leaders within their committees.

**Other**

Al Grimstad indicated that Valerio Viti had a question about the USFS guiding cards. David Ross responded that they come to him in April and that he will put aside twenty cards for the Ski Committee.

**Motion to Adjourn**

At 8:50, John Pilla made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Future & To Be Continued 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)
• Newsletter article urging chapter members to sign up for weekly updates (September ’14)
• Programs Committee – submit article looking for event volunteers; co-chair sought (February ’15)
• Regional Director Candidates – NH/ME coordination (February ’15)

Minutes: Beth Zimmer
3/5/15