AMC NH Chapter Minutes

Meeting Date: April 2, 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 Sintro 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)
✓ Susan Arnold AMC’s VP for Conservation (Guest)
✓ Rick Silverberg Director of Winter & Spring School (Guest)
✓ Larry Yetter Excursions Treasurer (Guest)
Call to Order

Wayne Goertel called the meeting to order at 7:01.

Thanks went out to the Excursions' Committee for tonight’s dinner.

Upcoming dinner schedule:

- May 7  Mountaineering
- June 4  Membership & Programs
- 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:  May 7, 2015

Approval of November Minutes / Beth Zimmer

Beth Zimmer had sent out a draft of the March minutes to ExComm members via a prior e-mail. There were no corrections or additions.

A motion was made by John Pilla to approve the minutes; 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. He reported that invested reserves presently stand at $51,390. We have received our Chapter allocation of approximately $14,000 and that this is the first of three allocations.

Deposits have been made for the upcoming May session of Wilderness First Aid. The Ski Committee has made arrangements for this spring session of WFA. Tony Schmidt mentioned that there are eight spaces remaining, and that it is okay to send a notice out to the leaders from the other activity committees.

There were no further questions or comments.

AMC’s VP for Conservation / Susan Arnold

Susan Arnold spoke to members about a variety of legislative and conservation issues relating to New Hampshire.

- The NH house recently passed a budget proposal, which includes significant budget reductions to NH Fish and Game. This will have a negative impact on such areas as SAR (search and rescue), and wildlife /
habitat management. Along with the Nature Conservancy, Audubon and other groups, the AMC is advocating for broadening the administrative and management structure of NHF&G. Ideally, this would include a much broader constituency beyond the hunting and fishing community. AMC strives to remain a constructive force within this broad coalition.

- The budget proposal did not raid LCHIP (The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program), but the renewal energy fund took a hit.

- Legislation has been proposed to create a state level committee to discuss possible transmission of energy over some transportation corridors. AMC is in support of this bill. This would also encompass revamping the committee that sites energy facilities and gives approval to energy projects. Making the standards clearer is much needed, as energy projects often have an impact on the use of public lands, our vistas, and recreational assets, etc.
  - Northern Pass and wind projects will go before this committee. So making the committee more transparent and stringent will be good for everyone.

- In the Cardigan area, wind tower projects are in the works. One project was withdrawn; a second proposal may be filed this year. AMC and the impacted towns are opposed to these projects.

- Regarding Northern Pass, the draft environmental impact statement is to be released soon. This is the first big step in the permitting process. The statement “may” name a preferred alternative. In addition to the above, three other related permits are still pending.

- A fabulous new movie by Jerry Monkman, The Power of Place, has been released. In this movie, Jerry interviews northern residents who have turned down Northern Pass buyouts. In turn, viewers learn about what motivated them to turn down large sums of money and instead, put their land into conservation easement.

- Kinder-Morgan has proposed running a gas pipeline from PA to the Boston area. The proposal has the pipeline coming through western MA and southern NH, before turning back south to Boston. As the proposal would have the pipeline passing through conservation lands (such as the Appalachian Trail, Wapack Trail, Rhododendron State Park, etc.), the AMC is following the matter.
• A question was raised, regarding whether the above energy projects can use eminent domain to pass across conservation lands. Susan explained that this issue has not been settled and that the land trusts that hold these interests are investigating whether eminent domain can be used to trump deeded easements.

• At the Federal level, reauthorization of the Land and Water Fund is coming due. This fund, which gets revenue via offshore energy leases, offers “land” protection through such methods as funding parks and the National Forest Service. This fund, and its reauthorization are important. The AMC is very engaged with a national coalition, working to ensure the program is reauthorized and appropriately funded.

• With regards to the EPA, there is lot of work to be done there. The EPA is working on ozone regulations that will restrict green house gasses. The AMC has over 20 years of data, and hopes to assist the EPA with making the standards tighter for the benefit of human and ecological health.

• Acknowledging that the above items constitute a lot of information to digest in one sitting, there was brief discussion about possible methods to keep these topics in the public eye – perhaps by way of frequent and brief newsletter columns. The question was raised if this was an appropriate task that our Conservation & Education Committee could follow up on. Further discussion may be warranted.

NHF&G’s Discover Wild NH Day – Saturday, April 18, 2015 / LuAnn Laquerre

LuAnn Laquerre read off a list of AMC NH volunteers and activity leaders who have offered to attend and help out at Discover Wild NH Day. We are participating in the scavenger hunt. LuAnn would still like to have a few more volunteers so that folks can work in half-day shifts.

Excursions’ Meetup Site / Beth Zimmer

As the Excursions Committee’s Meetup site has gained in membership and following (now over 1000 members), there has been an increase in individuals seeking to utilize this resource. For example, individuals have sought to use the site to promote fundraising activities, a paddling event, spread non-AMC informational messages, sponsor goods, and the like. Beth Zimmer explained that the Excursions Committee would like to remind everyone that the Meetup site is for AMC NH approved Excursions and related YM activities (hikes and socials) only. In the future, non-OLTL approved and non-hiking related activities (Excursions & YM Committees) will be deleted from the Meetup site.
John Pilla mentioned that the Paddling Committee also has a Meetup site and that this communication method has helped to promote the Wednesday paddling series. Several committee members commented that it “makes sense” that the Excursions Meetup site be used strictly for AMC approved, hiking-related activities.

Beth offered that as the Meetup tools are so successful, ExComm and the other activity committees might wish to consider opening additional Meetup sites.

Train the Trainer Training / Bill Warren & Rick Silverberg

Over the weekend of March 20-22, there was an AMC Leadership Gathering. Rick Silverberg shared that the event went well, with nine of the ten chapters represented. Thirty-one individuals were in attendance and there was good participation in all sessions. There were two tracks this year: 1/ chapter committee leadership, and 2/ train the trainer for outings (climbers, skiers, hikers, etc.). Of interest, is that the NH Chapter has the least accidents of any chapter, in part, as we do an outstanding job training our leaders.

One topic that was raised was that of diversity and inclusion, and how to get minority populations to come to events and become more actively involved. Attendees agreed that we can learn a great deal from other chapters and the time spent together was invaluable.

Bill Warren too, said that the weekend Leadership Gathering was a very good program. One important discussion was around the topic of “reputation,” knowing that as reputation rises, hikes and other activities fill up. Another take away was that our leaders need continuing opportunities to take classes or other types of training.

Rick shared that the Center for Outdoor Leadership and Learning will be creating space to post content and curriculum on their website so that knowledge can be shared among all chapters. AMC has a sizeable budget to advance this on-line resource, or library.

Northern Regional Director Candidate / Wayne Goertel

John Mullens, a ME resident, is a candidate for Northern Regional Director. Wayne Goertel shared that a half dozen folks met John this past March 9 here in NH for a few hours of conversation. Wayne found him to be very well spoken and that he enjoys a good, “Club” presence. Wayne further explained that both NH and ME Chapter leadership support his candidacy. At this time there are no other nominees.
Paul Berry made a motion that the NH Chapter endorse John Mullens as candidate for our next Regional Director. The motion was seconded.

Sam Jamke has told the Nominating Committee that both NH and ME support John as nominee. Beth Zimmer inquired if John would be likely to attend meetings and be “as present” as Sam has been; the consensus was that Sam has ‘set the bar high’ and that John may not be at as many NH meetings and events as Sam is presently.

After “calling the question,” the motion passed on voice vote with one abstention.

Wayne will send correspondence of this endorsement to both Sam and the nominating committee chair.

Young Members Follow-up / Josh Meltzer

To follow up on last month’s topic of generating YM activities, Josh Meltzer outlined some recently held activities as well as a few that are in the works. Activities range from snowshoeing, skiing, and paddling, to hiking, socials and camping. More events are being posted; and although we do not quite have one per weekend, there an increase of events none-the-less. Three YM participants are going through leadership training in the coming NH Chapter Spring School. Beth Zimmer offered that many activities could run with only one approved trip leader from one of the activity committees and one eager YM.

Nomination Committee / Bill Warren

Bill Warren indicated that a small write-up would be going into our Mt. Passages newsletter, seeking volunteers for ExComm and other activities.

This year’s nominating committee (for ExComm) will likely include Tim Kennedy, Trudi Janoschek and possibly one other individual.

Bill wanted to check in with folks regarding whether they want to stay on the ExComm board or not. He asked anyone considering not returning, to send him an email.

Bill will send out a list of ExComm openings to members.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

October 16-18, AMC Fall Gathering, Lake George, NY
October 24, NH Chapter Annual Meeting, Concord

Miscellaneous
Marianne Page shared that as of today, the NH Chapter has 12,710 members.

Paul Berry suggested we revisit the topic of “communications” at our May meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn**

At 8:37, Ron Janowitz 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)
- Conservation topics in newsletter (April ‘15)

Minutes: Beth Zimmer

4/2/15