AMC NH Chapter Minutes

Meeting Date: September 3, 2015
Meeting Location: Holiday Inn, Manchester, NH

Attending

ExComm members
1. Wayne Goertel Chair
2. Bill Warren Vice Chair
3. Rick Desmarais Treasurer
4. Josh Meltzer Young Members
5. Paul Hopkins Conservation
6. Eric Savage Conservation
7. Richie Holstein Trails
8. Denise Carter Trails
9. Doria Harris Bicycling
10. Lu Ann Programs
11. Paul Berry Paddling
12. Kevin Rooney Excursions
13. Valerio Viti Ski
14. Paul Pinkham Ski

Guests
15. John Judge AMC President
16. Larry Yetter Excursions Treasurer
17. Wanda Rice Family Group
18. Scott Taylor Excursions

Wayne Goertel took minutes as Secretary Zimmer was unable to attend tonight.

Meeting started at 7:02p.
Thanks to Bill and Wayne who arranged tonight's dinner: salads and pizza from Portland Pie, beverages and fruit.
**Business**

1. Paul Pinkham approved as interim Ski Committee Co-Chair, replacing Tony Schmidt who recently moved "down south".
2. Beth Zimmer's minutes from the June ExComm meeting were approved.
3. Rick Desmarais provided the Treasurer's report (sent separately).

**Chapter Activity this summer**

1. Richie: Trails
   a. Committee up to 4 members (from 1), very exciting!
2. Doria reported on the bicycling Committee
   a. Gene H, gravely ill, VA hospital in Boston
   b. Bike committee: more rides & activities than last year
   c. Touring workshops
   d. Overnight trip offered, but not attended
   e. 50% attendance of those who say they're coming
   f. Is a need not met, or not a big need out there?
   g. Concern the committee may be missing some opportunity as it is not leading faster rides.
   h. No attendees for bike leader training
   i. Kevin R: know your audience, mentioned Jamie Gillon's story recently about how FB was the idea medium for YMs.
3. Wanda, Family Group
   a. 20 folks at Madison hut, full service
   b. Family group reunion hosted by Richie & wife
4. Bill - Hut Night story
   a. Someone who attended as a beginner a hike Bill W & Rick D led, now did hut night this year!
5. Lu Ann - Annual meeting
   a. Speaker - medical mission to Nepal
6. Valerio, Joe - Mountaineering Cmte
   a. 6 workshops this summer
   b. Rumney nights, typically very successful, this year rained out often
   c. Seeing students transition from indoor gym to outdoor
   d. Some leader candidates coming out of advanced workshop classes

7. Paul Berry - Paddling
   a. Does this group want to do anything at our annual meeting or otherwise to acknowledge ____ (realized I missed the name)
      i. Paddling Founders Award
      ii. Bernice Johnson; Chapter Bench at Cardigan?
   b. Wednesday series - every Wednesday, as many as 30 people attend, typically sold out of the 10 NH AMC rentals
   c. Interesting story about bringing 20 boats to an event at the Audubon
   d. Rec paddling taking off

8. Kevin - Excursions
   a. ~3 yr leader gathering coming up this fall at Pat's Peak
      i. Skills refresher
      ii. Succession planning
   b. Leadership training classes continue to be popular, 2 section offered this spring
   c. Recent leader picnic was well attended
   d. Recent announced Excursions will be leader training cost after completing training & leading 6 trips.
   e. GPS, map & compass workshops - waiting list
   f. Women's group backpacking

9. Josh - Young Members
   a. Camping weekend recently, 20 folks
   b. More leadership interest, advisory board has really had good participation
John Judge
Outdoor experiences are life changing experiences.
AMC helping folks get outdoors.
Potomac Chapter (formerly DC Chapter) in Virginia marks the southern end of AMC’s region.

Next year, AMC will be celebrating 140 years!
Roots - folks coming together to hike in the White Mountains
Need to connect people in cities with the outdoors. How else will they vote, contribute to outdoors? Health, life quality?

How to connect close to home in urban areas
It is forecast that by 2050, the majority of world will live in urban areas.
AMC has a NYC upper west side office off central park
AMC recently granted a 40 year lease on a camp in Harrigan St. park, 46k acres under an hour of travel from NYC.

- Rolling hills, ponds, etc.
- 100 youth camps originally down to 32.
- 1-3 yr camp lease typically
- 40 yr, 30k/yr
- Some existing infrastructure
- Building 2 outpost campsites
- Paddling
- Youth programs
- 8k youth served in NYC last year
- Open summer, 2016

MA - Bay Circuit rail, 230 miles; maps, recently came out
NE scenic trail maps - Long Island sound through CT, MA, to Monadnock

Maine
Recent conservation purchase, Baker Mountain
67k acres previously
Grants, Maine Woods over to Moosehead Lake

Outdoor recreation, a real boost to the local economy.
e.g. Greenville & county, positive feedback to John about AMC's involvement.

Camp to camp, 80 miles, XC ski.
Working to cultivate bicycling opportunities, single track, fat bikes.

**New Hampshire**

**Camp Dodge**
- Old Triple C Camp; has not had a significant reinvestment since.
- AMC plans to use as Trails HQ
- 1300 trail volunteers went through Camp Dodge last year.
- 250k visitors coming through Pinkham this year!
- Planned renovations; more ADA compliant.

**Proposed New AMC Hut**
- State Forest vs. National Forest
- Crawford State Park
- Just down the road from the Highland Center, near Ripley Falls
- Accommodate 45-50 people
- Off the grid, sustainable, composting toilets, solar; most accessible hut-to-hut experience for beginners & families.
- Entry-level hut to hut experience
- Open year long
- Existing trail, Zealand, cross country ski-able
- 43k people stayed at huts last year
- Public comment period ended recently, 200 comments were provided to DRED

**Northern Pass**
- New Northern Pass Route proposed, burying 52 miles more than previous plan
- Still working out right of ways & such
• Outdoor advocacy
• John hiked portions with NH Senator Ayotte, who supports burying the whole line. (Yay!)

NH Chapter considered a leader in the outdoors, also as a Chapter.

**AMC Outlook**

2012 Strategic planning - 2020 vision statements, goals, 4 pillars (conservation, expanding constituency, outdoors, opportunity in Maine)

• e.g. getting more kids outdoors, but how?
• 2013 - introduced 3 yr strategic plan, iterative process
• Quality vs. quantity considerations
• Introduced Outdoor Recreational Leadership pillar
• Close to home infrastructure
• Opportunities in population centers
• High quality infrastructure in NH, huts, lodges, programs

Online for Center of Leadership & Learning (COLL)

• Personalized committee online for members; share trips you are leading, collaborate, photo management, stats, hike history, etc.
• Integrate programs with maps, books, guides
• White Mountain Guide was first and only book online
• Migrating other guides/series online

**Follow up questions**

AMC - Northern Pass - advocates burying the entire line

• Education is important. Eversource & Hydro Quebec are greenwashing the issue.
  ○ E.g. Flooding acres of land in Quebec
• More Quebecers hiking in NH & ME?

**Thoreau Bridge Controversy**

• Paul Berry raised the issue of the upcoming Thoreau Bridge Sept 9th deadline. Has AMC taken a position on the removal of the bridge?
• AMC, trying to outreach with volunteers, trail crew; email from Andrew Norkin, follow-up or results?
• Jeb Bradley, letter to Sen. Ayotte? Looked at it, seems it may not need significant repairs
• Kevin - "not just one rule" - provision in Wildnerness act for safety accommodations
• Deep country ski route Paul Cunha noted would be jeopardized
• 22CFR?
• "Why is it suddenly necessary to destroy this bridge with short notice?"
• Larry - newer to NH Chapter, notes some disconnect between volunteers and the club ("joy street").
• John proposed getting a few folks from the NH Chapter up to Pinkham, to connect over dinner with Andre Norkin, Paul Cunha, etc., after our annual meeting and periodically thereafter.

Misc
1. AMC is a growing organization, many conservations are not. AMC leaders are really our ambassadors.
   a. Did you know there are ~70 AMC Facilities?
2. AMC hopes to have a new club website this fall, mobile friendly.
   a. (Wayne bemoans a lack of volunteer involvement in the redesign process)
3. 60% reduction in recreational spending - Forest Service
4. Kevin noted some variations in approach between various Forest Service units.
   a. E.g. VT actively managed for recreation, collaborates closely with outdoor recreation groups.
   b. Picnic tables, mowing, etc., really to encourage use of the outdoors

Minutes: Wayne Goertel