

MEETING MINUTES
Appalachian Mountain Club
Hiking/Backpacking Committee
Boston Chapter

1/13/09 At the home of Bob "BBQ" Kittredge

PRESENT:

Judy Dillman – Esteemed Chair
Ellen Cullen –Leadership applications
Stan Dunbar
Florrie Johnson - Secretary
Bob Kittredge – Harvard Cabinmaster
Julie Lepage – Honored New Committee Member
Bob Asch
Kevin McAllister
Gary Schwartz - Webmaster
Mike Swartz - Treasurer
Dan Wiktor – Co-Chair
Silvia Zaharinova – Trip Coordinator
Joyce Horrigan
Steve Dennin
Bob Moore

1) INTRODUCTION WELCOME. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:20 pm

2) LAST MEETINGS MINUTES – Accepted. Great job by Bob Asch.

3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MTG

John Lisker is encouraging all committees to use an on-line trip listing system. Andover Committee is the only committee currently that does not. John is looking to have an automated way to extract trips from on-line listings directly to the on-line MUD publication. This is complicated by the fact that formats differ by committee.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT – MIKE SWARTZ

Additional checks received this month from the chapter include \$350 to cover the deficit in the Spring Leadership Program, \$373 for one third of our subsidy payments for Leader training courses, and \$500 owed to us for leadership appreciation.

On-going issue with the bank is their statement attributes \$46.91 to our account that our numbers do not show.

Winter Hiking Program netted us \$3700 from registration. This year's program brought in more income and fewer expenses. Cardigan weekend has 50 participants and projected profits are \$25-2700. Much appreciation is expressed to the WHP team from the committee for their competent work.

5) TRIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT – SILVIA

We had a record number of trips listed for Jan and Feb. Silvia attributes this to the on-line system as well as the Feb Social. Trips for Spring so far in March 8, April 4, and May 3.

6) HARVARD CABIN REPORT – BOB

January's HC was successful with 14 participants.

The Dec HC was cancelled due to the Ice Storm. The HC Committee still wants \$440 although we had no income from that trip. Judy has talked to John Lisker about this who has enlisted Paul Dale (Vice chair of Exec Com) to try and negotiate with the HC Committee.

There was discussion regarding the justification of each side – leaders for cancelling and HC Committee for expecting payment. Points raised were that

1) leaders should always make decisions based on safety and their best judgment

2) What was safe that weekend was not crystal clear as

a) another trip went that same weekend

b) The conditions of roads varied by area and by time frame that Friday night

3) Our standing agreement with HC Committee does not include bad weather exclusions. Maybe we should work on changing the agreement.

7) TRIP REPORTER'S REPORT – LEANDRA

Not present

8) WEBMASTER'S REPORT – GARY

Website continues to be busy and well used. Powerpoints from WHP lectures are on website.

9) COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

WHP – Bob Moore reporting. The program enrolled 109 participants. Feedback surveys were received from 42 participants showing overall ratings of good or excellent. One exception demo groups, 13 people rated them "fair". Lectures were excellent. Ratings of cost: 61% said about right, 36% said a bargain. 66% of responders attended at least one trip. Attendance at sessions was high. Regarding the final night: Location-50% of responders said good, 44% excellent; Facilities & Food-50% excellent; speaker-78% said excellent. 85% of responders said they'd recommend program to others.

There was discussion on the use of a commercial venue. Feedback from participants indicated it was positive – enjoyed being around gear and felt no pressure to buy anything. Having program staff there to talk about the gear was appreciated.

A motion was passed to allow WHP to use a commercial venue next year.

SHP – George about to hold the first organizational meeting next Tuesday at Joy St, will be sending out a general email. Cardigan has been booked, their fee is higher this year.

Spring Wilderness First Aid – Need to get a listing into the Outdoors; no other committees have WFA planned, there may be a high demand. Goal to have in May; put listing on Chapter Website. Phil has let Judy know he plans to put in a listing.

10) SUBSIDY PROGRAM-Florrie

None this month

11) LEADERSHIP APPLICATIONS – Ellen

Erica Bloom, active leader for Southeast Chapter and Major Excursions asked what HB would require for her to lead HB trips. Discussion regarding when and if we should make exceptions to our rules. Concern is unfairness and decisions based on personality issues rather than treating people the same across the board. On the other side is not allowing rules to stand in the way of the committee accepting quality leaders that we know are competent.

12) OLD BUSINESS

Difficulty in changing email addresses across AMC web sites etc continues to be looked at.

13) NEW BUSINESS

Leader Appreciation Dinner – Yantzee River, Tues Feb 3rd. Silvia will contact Carol Phipps to organize. HB will pay for it. Subcommittee to manage awards for leaders – Silvia, Ellen & Julie.
Motion passed for \$200 budget for awards for leaders.

Footnotes – Stan asks the question, do we need to continue Footnotes?

Info in Footnotes: new co-leaders' names, deadlines, meeting notices, program reminders and dates.
Concerns: having updated snail mail addresses for Leaders.

Agreed we don't need a paper document mailed out. Most info now on website. Discussion on need to either email out Footnotes document or put separate document on the website. Conclusion reached that the helpfulness of these possibilities was limited and likely they would not be used frequently.

Motion made and passed that Footnotes in hard copy form will be eliminated and no PDF file to replace it will be created at this time.

THANK YOU Stan for your time and commitment over the years to this document which many of us looked forward to receiving and found important and necessary in the pre-computer years!

Trip Planning Meeting Thursday April 23 at Joy St. 6:30 doors open, business at 7. Judy will reserve Cabot Auditorium

14) NEXT MEETINGS

Feb 10 – Dan's House in Wakefield

March 10 – Silvia's House in Westford

15) ACTION ITEMS

Judy reserves Cabot Aud for Trip Planning mtg April 23

Time Adjourned 9:15

Respectfully Submitted,
Florrie Johnson
HB Secretary