

MEETING MINUTES

Appalachian Mountain Club
Hiking/Backpacking Committee
Boston Chapter

9/15/09 At Brandeis University

PRESENT:

Julie Lepage
Bob Asch
Gary Schwartz - Webmaster
Mike Swartz - Treasurer
Dan Wiktor - Co-Chair
Florrie Johnson - Secretary
Brian Glenn - new committee member
"Rocket" Bob Knudsen - honored guest

1) INTRODUCTION WELCOME. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:15 pm by Dan; Judy in Italy

2) LAST MEETINGS MINUTES ACCEPTED

3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Fall trip planning meeting - Tues Oct 6 at St. John's Episcopal Church in Newton. Sponsored by Ski committee. 6:30 doors open, 7:00 meeting.
Action Item: Gary will send out notice to HB Leaders' List

Exec Comm Looked at number of trips over the past year and HB was on top; Local Walks also very active with 60 trips scheduled.

New Boston Chapter Webmaster is Andrew Odewahn.

Dept of Conservation & Recreation is receiving funds from the Big Dig due to damage done to Quincy Quarries. Paul Dale of Mountaineering Committee is involved in helping to manage this money, along with Friends of the Blue Hills and the Nature Conservancy. He is looking for suggestions on how to use the money.

MUD Editor Geoff Moore reports that 1900 people signed up to receive an e-copy of the MUD. 11,000 still get paper copies. He has had turnover in his staff and is interviewing for replacements.

Fall Leadership Program is 9/23 & 30th, weekend of Oct 2-4 at Camp Lyndon. They have 10 paid participants and 10-12 additional folks who have signed up and not paid yet.

Annual Meeting/AMC Banquet is 11/1 at the Sandy Burr Country Club in Waltham and our own lovely and talented Julie Lepage will be speaking.

Follow up on Leader Feedback Survey - there were 195 respondents. Most reported positive experiences being an AMC leader. Dan has requested they put responses and results on the Chapter website for Leaders to view.

The Cabot Auditorium will be getting renovated, and the Boston Chapter is being asked to contribute financially to this. See New Business section below.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT - MIKE SWARTZ

Last spring a participant to the Spring Hiking Programs check bounced due to his account being closed, and he was never located (he had reportedly moved out of the country). This led to a discussion of HB programs using PayPal for their programs. Participants would pay as they signed up through this method. Mountaineering and Ice Climbing programs do this.

Advantages: no bounced checks, pay during registration, program coordinators don't have to deal with checks, would probably reduce no show rates. Disadvantages: we would have to pay 3% of the proceeds to use Paypal. PP may get involved in disputes and remove control of decisions/funds from AMC.

Action Item: Michael will talk to those using the service and get more information.

5) TRIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT - SILVIA not present

6) HARVARD CABIN REPORT - BOB not present

7) TRIP REPORTER'S REPORT - Joyce not present

8) WEBMASTER'S REPORT - GARY

Gary received 82 spam emails in one day trying to sign on to our website so the sign in function is now temporarily removed. This does not affect access to the Leader's Corner. The only issue is if someone wants to add content to the site they have to sign in. This is relevant for the upcoming Winter Program.

Action Items: Gary will replace sign in function; he will increase the size limits of HB Committee attachments to 500K. He will send out email to Leader's List asking for updates on retail gear resources to update that section of the website.

9) COMMITTEE PROGRAMS

Fall Wilderness First Aid Course - status unknown. Brian will be talking to Phil and will ask him about it.

Winter Hiking Program - Brian Glenn coordinating, thanks Brian! Many changes this year, curriculum has been consolidated into 4 nights. As much as possible presentations will be interactive and teaching about gear selection and decision making will be illustrated in the context of a trip or campsite, with multiple viewpoints emphasized.

WHP is requesting David Breshears as a speaker again this year, probable site Joe Jones in Brighton. Past committee reservations over this commercial relationship mentioned along with the many positive aspects of using that site. David B. gets his gear from Joe Jones at considerable discount, and hence waives his substantial speaking fee for Phil.

Lecture Series started in Sept with 25 participants at Joy St. Michelle Grzenda doing the next talk in October. Due to \$100 speakers fee Julie reports planning to have the events every few months rather than more frequently.

10) SUBSIDY PROGRAM-Florrie

Two subsidies paid over the summer

11) LEADERSHIP APPLICATIONS - Ellen - not present, represented by Julie Ben Nidus, approved for 3 season leadership. Action Item: Brian will write up paragraph summarizing discussion for Judy who will contact Ben.

12) OLD BUSINESS

Mountain Talk - Julie will be moderator. Gary will assemble.

Leader Appreciation Weekend - 25 cheery and enthusiastic leaders came, 25 no-showed probably due to weather. Everyone had fun. Lynn Matt & Julie on board for next year and talking about how to improve it.

13) NEW BUSINESS

AMC is looking to do upgrades to Cabot Auditorium, and Exec Committee is expressing a possible willingness to contribute funds. Upgrades include:

- 1) stage lighting for front of room
- 2) sound system
- 3) new projection screen

Total cost some thousand dollars. To be discussed at our Oct. meeting.

Brian expressing suggestions he has heard & agrees with for improvement of the trip listing software

- 1) be able to edit & change trip listings after they are entered to communicate changes to the trip
- 2) be able to access old, archived trip listings so L can re-use listings of trips that are led year after year
- 3) HB announce needs to send out updated trip listings; when trips are updated on website HB announce continues to send out same original listing, so participants don't know if a trip is full, etc.
- 4) Trip registration software would save leaders much time and effort, we need to do whatever possible to attain and use this.

14) NEXT MEETINGS

Tues Oct 13 Bob Kittredge's in Newton

Wed Nov 11 Silvia's in Westford

Wed Dec 9 - ?

15) ACTION ITEMS

Gary – send out notice about Oct planning meeting to leader's list
re install sign-in function to website for winter program content

Michael – contact Mountaineering Committee for info on use of PayPal

Brian – write up brief summary of leadership discussion and send to Judy

Judy – contact Ben Nidus to inform of 3 season leadership status after hearing from Brian

16) AGENDA ITEM FOR NEXT MTG

Exec Comm contributing financially to Cabot Auditorium renovation

Trip listing software improvements

Time Adjourned 8:35

Respectfully Submitted,
Florrie Johnson
HB Secretary