

Minutes: May 2010 Monthly H/B Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday May 12, 2010

Location: Home of Silvia Dubinsky

Attending: Bob Asch, Ellen Cullen, Silvia Dubinsky, Robert Freed, Brian Glenn, Bob Kittredge, Bob Knudsen, Kevin McAllister, Alex Nedzel, Gary Schwartz, Dan Wiktor

Come to order: 7:09pm

Minutes of prior meetings:

- The minutes from the March 9, 2010 H/B Committee meeting were approved.
- The minutes from the April 13, 2010 H/B Committee meeting were corrected and approved.

April Boston Chapter Executive Committee Meeting: Bob Kittredge and Gary Schwartz attended. They reported that:

- The preliminary results for the second installment of a Boston Leader/Co-Leader survey were discussed. One finding: people tend to assign greater importance to their affiliations with the AMC and with their chapter committees than with the chapter itself.
- The chapter website upgrades are likely to roll out in August.
- There are openings to be filled on the chapter Executive Committee.

Trips: Robert reported that on the heels of a very successful spring planning meeting, there are now 35 Boston H/B trips and 2 instructional programs on the calendar for May-August, with more coming in all the time. Last year's total May-August numbers: 49 trips, plus six "other" events.

Harvard Cabin: Bob Kittredge reported that there is nothing to report this month.

Leader WFA Requirement: Discussion around whether we should require current WFA certification of our leaders continued where it left off after the April meeting and subsequent exchange of e-mails. The group then approved the following policy, to take effect on May 1, 2011:

- In order to lead trips *inside* our local area (defined as within I-495 or on Cape Cod), a leader must have been WFA certified at least once.
- In order to lead trips *outside* this area, a leader must renew his/her WFA certification on a 3-year or more frequent basis.
- The above are *in addition* to the current policy, which requires new H/B leaders to be WFA certified.

After approving the new WFA policy, several points were made around implementation:

- We are out in front of many of our longstanding trip leaders on this issue, and it is therefore especially important that we roll out the new policy thoughtfully and with grace.
- We will rely on leaders to self-report their WFA status.
- Given the ramped-up training, we need to do some thinking around financial policy, e.g., how hard do we work to assemble cost-effective WFA course groups? Do we work with people like Aaron Gorban, who can offer the course on more of an in-house basis? What/how much do we reimburse?
- We should consider surveying the leader base as to when, in light of the new policy, they plan to get re-certified, and then offer convenient sessions accordingly.

The group relegated further discussion of these points to the June meeting.

Webmaster Report: The new trip reservation system is in beta, and has been used on two Spring Hiking Program trips thus far. Barring unforeseen problems, Gary's plan is to roll the system out in June for all our leaders and co-leaders to use if desired.

Winter Hiking Program: Brian Glenn has graciously volunteered to continue as program chair for the 2010-2011 year.

Wilderness First Aid: Matt Pearson has posted a Joy Street WFA course for the weekend of June 19-20, and is planning another one for September.

Lecture series: Through e-mail, Julie LePage reported that over 40 people attended the last lecture (about trail work), and it went very well. They had a great potluck, and Julie guarded the propped-open door without issue. We are postponing the slideshows until the summer is over, starting up again in September with Silvia's show about Bulgaria; Kilimanjaro in Oct; and trekking in Nepal in November or Dec. Julie also hopes to do a program on AMC August Camp in November or December, so we're pretty much scheduled through to the end of 2010.

Spring Hiking Program: Bob Knudsen reported that Cardigan is currently booked for 23 people. He will close out the enrollment and finalize the number next week. Next Tuesday is the last lecture evening. 110 registered for the program, but yesterday there were only 54 people in attendance. The Welch Dickey hike scheduled for last Saturday was oversubscribed, even with three subgroups organized. It was ultimately cancelled due to bad weather. **Action:** The group recommended and Bob agreed that a careful participant survey will be done via a paper handout and/or Survey Monkey.

Summer Social: In the absence of other volunteers, Silvia and Julie will organize this year's summer social.

Subsidy Coordinator: Starting in September, will need a new Subsidy Coordinator to succeed Florrie. Good leads should get passed to Silvia.

Agenda Items for Future Meetings:

- Discuss the implementation aspects of the new WFA training policy - ***June meeting***
- Report of Holt Trail Subcommittee - ***September meeting***

Future Meetings:

- Tuesday, June 8, 2010 - Dan Wiktor (BBQ; bring side dishes, beverages and desserts)
- Tuesday, September 14, 2010 - Alex Nedzel

Adjourn: 8:57 pm

Recap of Action Items:

- ***Bob Knudsen*** will conduct a careful survey of Spring Hiking Program participants.
- ***All*** - Pass ideas for Subsidy Coordinator to Silvia.

Alex Nedzel
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