

Hiking/Backpacking Committee – Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Minutes: September 2013 Monthly H/B Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Location: Lexington – home of Alex Nedzel

Attending: Alex Nedzel (Vice-Chair), Stephen Conlin, Carl Gustenhoven, Bob Kittredge, Bob Knudsen, Fred Smith, Anne Jarek, Gary Schwartz, Paul Terenzi, Robert Freed, Jeff Carlson, and Keith Watling. Bob Asch joined by phone for the leadership application section of the meeting, and Kellie Connelly joined the meeting as a guest.

Come to order: 7:00 pm

Minutes of prior meeting: Minutes from the June 18, 2013 H/B meeting were approved.

Boston Chapter Executive Committee Meeting: Bob Kittredge reported on the following matters that occurred or were discussed at the Exec Comm meeting in September:

- The annual report is in the works and H/B needs to give input by October 1st.
- Stephen Conlin gave a presentation on leadership training.
- REGI is in the process of being updated – phase 1 (to stabilize the code) is done and phase 2 (to improve and expand the system) is due in early 2014.
- The third Wednesday socials have resumed for the Fall, with the one for September being held in Harvard Square.
- The committee discussed a plan for the consolidation of activity committees and received input from the affected committees.

Stephen reported on comments about H/B made by representatives of other committees in the context of discussing the committee consolidation plan – specifically that other committees seem to have a perception that H/B leads only strenuous or extreme hikes. He suggested that H/B make an effort to more accurately describe its hikes, since not all h/B hikes are extreme. Following discussion, a subcommittee of Stephen, Robert Freed and Kellie were charged with reviewing the H/B hike rating system and reporting back to the committee.

Treasurer: No report.

Trip Coordinator: Robert reported that:

- During June, July and August, there were 64 trips this year versus 58 last year.
- For September, there are 18 trips listed this year versus 10 last year.
- Overall, that represents a 20% improvement over last year in terms of number of trips.
- The Online Trip Listing System had been upgraded to add a page in which leaders can add information about themselves and their interests.

The committee discussed whether program trips should be counted as separate trips, as currently each of the SHP and the WHP all of their respective associated trips and activities are counted as only one, and decided to leave it to Robert's discretion, as Trip Coordinator.

Webmaster: Alex reported on the problem with REGI over the Summer.

Gary described several outstanding issues and objectives:

- The master password has been distributed too widely and he wants to change it.
- He wants to move to a new version of backend software used by H/B, which will add more security and spam protection.
- He wants to update some links, such as hotel and outdoor shop information.

Alex reported that Gmail has labeled H/B email as spam and the committee discussed methods of correcting the problem and preventing its re-occurrence.

Trip Reporter: No report.

Leader Applications: Bob Asch reported the following applications:

- An application by Keith Watling for 3-season leader, which was approved by the committee. Keith left the room while his application was discussed and returned after the committee voted.
- An application by Joshua Beckman for 3-season leader, which was approved by the committee.

Harvard Cabin: Bob Kittredge reported that this will be his last year as Harvard cabin coordinator, and Bob Knudsen offered to assume the position.

Winter Hiking Program: Fred reported that:

- A planning meeting for WHP was held and well attended.
- He intends to devote more time to lectures on clothing, equipment and skills, and break-out sessions with Winter leaders, and less time on other things such as weather.

The committee discussed trying to limit the number of trips devoted exclusively to WHP, so that more trips would be available to regular participants. Fred suggested that in the case of backpacks, he limit WPH to beginner backpacks, and have intermediate backpack be open to WHP and other participants.

Spring Hiking Program: Bob Knudsen reported that all of the program-related hikes have been completed and that finances for the program have been settled-up.

New Business: The following items were identified for discussion at the next meeting:

- Adding a "Questions/Comments/Concerns" button on the H/B website to make it easier for participants to provide feedback to the committee.
- Update on the hike rating system
- Update on the Gmail spam issue.

Next Meetings:

- Tuesday, October 8, 2013, at the home of Carl Gustenhoven in North Andover
- Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at the home of Stephen Conlin in Belmont
- Wednesday, December 11, 2013, at the home of Fred Smith

Adjourn: approximately 9:00 pm