

Hiking/Backpacking Committee – Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Minutes: October 2013 Monthly H/B Meeting

Date/Time: Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Location: North Andover – home of Carl Gustenhoven

Attending: Michael Swartz (Chair), Alex Nedzel, Stephen Conlin, Carl Gustenhoven, Bob Asch, Bob Knudsen, Fred Smith, Paul Terenzi, Robert Freed, Jeff Carlson, and Keith Watling. Liz Armstrong (Membership), Liz Westner, Casey Ajalat and David Lawrence joined the meeting as a guest.

Come to order: 7:00 pm

Minutes of prior meeting: Minutes from the September 10, 2013 H/B meeting were approved.

Boston Chapter Executive Committee Meeting: Michael gave a report of potential activity committee consolidation being considered by the Executive Committee. He also reported that there is an opening for the position of regional director (for the Northeast region), currently held by Mike Barry.

Treasurer: No report.

Trip Coordinator: Robert reported that there are 17 trips or instructional programs scheduled for September, and 12 trips or programs or slideshows scheduled for October. He also distributed a report listing scheduled trips for August through December.

Harvard Cabin: Bob Knudsen reported on the following matters:

- There were 2 Harvard Cabin trips scheduled in September
- One trip was scheduled but did not occur, and H/B was charged a \$440 fee.
- The map and compass program made a profit of \$266
- There is concern that a plan to install guard rails on Rt. 16 could reduce parking available for Harvard Cabin

Trip Reported: No report.

Webmaster: No report.

With respect to HB Announce being labeled as spam by Gmail, Robert reported that he needs to follow-up with Gary but has not yet been able to do so. Robert has put a notice on HB Announce asking that people unsubscribe rather than labeling it as spam.

Winter Hiking Program: Fred reported that there are 7 registered participants. He discussed WHP affiliated trips and decided they should be listed in OLTL system in addition to the WHP manual and REGI.

Wilderness First Aid: Alex reported that securing a one-day “refresher” WFA program is unlikely to occur. Jeff and Paul reported that a 2-day WFA program will be held January 18-19 at Joy Street, with a capacity of 30.

Leadership Issues: Michael and Liz Armstrong mentioned initiatives for leaders to identify and welcome new AMC members on trips and the possibility of issuing business cards to leaders with contact information for the leader and the club. Robert and Carl said that they would be more pro-active in identifying and marking trips that are appropriate for beginners when they are reviewing H/B trips listed on the OLTL system.

Leader Applications: Bob Asch reported an application by Chris Gambino for 3-season leader, which was approved by the committee.

Hike Rating Subcommittee: Stephen said that he and Robert have done some work on hike ratings but do not yet have a report. Robert described items that can be used now to describe a leader's preferred speed, such as the leader biography in the OLTL system.

New Business: The committee discussed the following items of new business:

- Michael described the membership committee social to be held in Concord.
- Michael stated that nominations for H/B committee officers will be discussed at the next meeting and he asked that anyone seeking to make a nomination should contact Stephen. Michael stated that he would be willing to continue as Chair for one more year, and that Alex is willing to continue as Vice-Chair and Leadership Coordinator. He stated that Stephen will not continue as Clerk and that the Committee is seeking nominations for that office. He stated that Robert and Carl are willing to continue as Trip Coordinator and Assistant Trip Coordinator, respectively, for the next year, and that Joyce is undecided as to whether she will continue as Treasurer, but that Philip is willing to assume that position if Joyce decides to step down.
- Michael described the Boston Chapter Annual Meeting to be held on November 10.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: The following items were identified for discussion at the next meeting:

- Update on the Gmail spam issue.
- Consideration of whether "grandfathered" status of leaders who have taken the full WFA program twice should continue
- Update on the hike rating system

Next Meetings:

- 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