

Hiking/Backpacking Committee – Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Minutes: November 2013 Monthly H/B Meeting

Date/Time: Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Location: Belmont – home of Stephen Conlin

Attending: Michael Swartz (Chair), Alex Nedzel, Stephen Conlin, Carl Gustenhoven, Bob Asch, Bob Knudsen, Fred Smith, Paul Terenzi, Robert Freed, Jeff Carlson, Keith Watling, Anne Jarek, Philip Werner, Faith Pulis, Yorghos Tripodis and Bob Kittredge.

Come to order: 7:00 pm

Minutes of prior meeting: Minutes from the October 8, 2013 H/B meeting were approved.

Boston Chapter Executive Committee Meeting: Michael reported that the Executive Committee is working on communications strategies, including with respect to the MUD, and that the third Wednesday socials will resume in January.

Treasurer: No report.

Trip Coordinator: Robert Freed reported that there was a temporary dip in the number of trips, but that many more have come in recently.

Harvard Cabin: Bob Knudsen reported on the following matters:

- Guard rail placement on Rt. 16 has been resolved in a manner that does not interfere with Harvard Cabin parking
- The October Harvard Cabin trip netted \$373
- Trips are scheduled for November, December, January and March, but two slots in coming months have been cancelled because of no leaders

Trip Reporter: Yorghos reported that compliance with trip reports has been good and he has needed to follow up with leaders only occasionally.

Webmaster: Michael summarized an email received from Gary regarding the problem of HB Announce being labeled as spam by Gmail, and Michael will follow up with Gary to ask him to report at the next meeting. Several members of the committee noted that they have no problem receiving HB Announce via Gmail.

Winter Hiking Program: Fred reported that there are approximately 100 registered participants, and that the first two evening sessions have been successfully completed. The Committee discussed the slightly lower number of participants this year, and when to open WHP trips to non-WHP participants.

Wilderness First Aid: Paul and Jeff reported that a WFA program will be offered on January 18-19 at Joy Street.

Leadership Issues: Alex reported that he added new FLP graduates who expressed an interest in H/B to the H/B leaders list.

Leader Applications: Bob Asch reported applications by Rogger Puma and Elizabeth Ryan for 3-season leader status, both of which were approved by the committee.

Old Business:

- Hike Rating Subcommittee – presentation was deferred to a future meeting.
- Trip Planning Meeting – Stephen reported on the details for the upcoming trip planning meeting to be held at Joy Street.
- WFA Discussion of Grandfathered Status: The current H/B WFA policy permits leaders who have taken the full WFA course at least twice to take a one-day refresher program in lieu another full 2-day WFA course, but the committee has not been successful in offering a one-day refresher program. Previously, the Committee decided to waive the WFA requirement for those leaders who have taken WFA twice until the Committee is able to offer a one-day refresher program. The Committee discussed whether it is appropriate to continue that waiver, and decided to discontinue that waiver with a 12 month grace period, meaning that under the current WFA policy leaders who have taken WFA twice will need to take another full WFA course within the next 12 months to retain their leader status. The Committee also discussed other changes to the WFA policy and decided to defer further discussion and action until the December meeting.
- Membership Committee – Michael reported on the H/B presentation at a recent membership committee social and on the Boston Chapter annual meeting.

New Business:

- Michael reported that election of H/B officers will occur at the December meeting and he reported the following nominations for 2014 and stated that committee members who wish to make any other nominations should report the same to either him or Stephen:
 - Chair – Michael Swartz
 - Vice-Chair – Alex Nedzel
 - Secretary – Faith Pulis
 - Treasurer – Joyce Horrigan (or Philip Werner if Joyce does not wish to continue in that role)
 - Assistant Treasurer – Philip Werner (unless he serves as Treasurer)
 - Trip Coordinator – Carl Gustenhoven
 - Assistant Trip Coordinator – Robert Freed

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

- Update on the Gmail spam issue
- Update on the hike rating system
- Further discussion regarding WFA policy

Next Meetings:

- Wednesday, December 11, 2013, at the home of Fred Smith
- Tuesday, January 14, 2013, at Brandeis University, hosted by Michael Swartz

Adjourn: approximately 9:00 pm