

Hiking/Backpacking Committee - Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Minutes: March 10, 2015 - Monthly HB Meeting

Approved 4/7/2015

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 7:03pm

Location: Belmont, MA, home of Stephen Conlin

In Attendance:

Alex Nedzel, Anne Jarek, Elisabeth Ryan, Paul Terenzi, Michael Swartz, Carl Gustenhoven, Stephen Conlin, Fred Smith, Philip Werner, Bob Knudsen, Keith Watling, Robert Freed, Casey Ajalat, Faith Pulis

Guest: Pam Wilmot

Come to order: 7:03pm

INTRODUCTION/WELCOME - Alex Nedzel

Thank you to Stephen for hosting.

February 2015 Minutes Approved with changes

REGULAR REPORTS

Boston Chapter Executive Committee - Fred Smith

Reminder to committees if they have excess reserve funds a plan should be created

Treasurer's Report - Philip Werner

Bank of America: \$10,839.32, PayPal: \$8,663.43

Major expenditures February 2015:

Apa Sherpa Event Expenses (total): \$1,895.35

WHP '15 Above Treeline Workshop Lodging (Joe Dodge): \$1,257.60

Major revenue sources February 2015:

Apa Sherpa Ticket Surplus: \$3,257.48* (still counting...)

SHP '15 Participant Fees: \$2,562.13

WHP '15 Above Treeline Workshop Participant Fees: \$1,355.00

Request made to have all program checks made out to HB Committee Boston

Trip Coordinator - Carl Gustenhoven/Robert Freed

Reminder to complete Trip Reports

If you don't see HB Announce from Robert, ping him a reminder

Reminder volunteer /charitable miles are tax deductible (exception if driver of vehicle is deriving a recreational benefit for him/herself)

Harvard Cabin - Bob Knudsen

Last Harvard Cabin of 2014/2015 Winter Concluded this weekend. No info available about numbers - etc. at this time.

Trip Reporter's Report - *Yorghos Tripodis*
deferred

Webmaster - *Gary, Schwartz, Casey Ajalat*

If you see pages that need updates or contain errors please send changes to Casey and he'll make the necessary changes. He is still working on getting additional site access to include hosting contacts to assist with web site administration. The REGI website still requires logo updates but Casey is working with Jeff to gain additional access.

Leadership - *Alex Nedzel, Stephen Conlin*

Leader and co-leader lists - Keith & Alex will work on getting in touch with our leaders and co-leaders to ensure that we're up-to-date as to their continued interest and desired level of participation in H/B activities.

Leadership Application – Pete Osler - *Bob Asch*

Pete Osler approved as 3 season leader

Reminder, while calendar winter may be over, co-leaders may still experience winter conditions outside of calendar winter. Reference Proposed Rule 6.9 and new Rule 6.21

H/B PROGRAMS

Spring Hiking Program - *Elizabeth Ryan*

Tuesdays April 14th, 21st, 28th and May 5th and 12th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM

[Boot night at EMS 5/12]

Presenters set, with exception of backpacking - still looking for leader

Proposed budget approved

Expected Revenues \$10,000

Expected Expenditures 9,634

Expected surplus \$866

Discussion - Is Cardigan still highlight of the program? If it's a hard sell to get participants, should we consider changing to 2 day, 1 night. If enrollments remain at 30'ish, is Joe Dodge Lodge a reasonable alternative?

Tip for Cardigan Staff - recommending 10% in gratitude for the staff support of the participants and the program.

Wilderness First Aid - *Paul Terenzi*

Non AMC class being offered through Elisabeth Stone House, March 28-29 at Mass Audubon Boston Nature Center

Updated reimbursement policy has been e-mailed to leader list

Lecture series - *Julie LePage*

Upcoming Presentations:

March 24: Keith Watling, Lodge to Lodge Trek in Nepal with REI

April 15: Ron Janowitz, Volunteering as a National Park Ranger in Utah.

May 14: Gary Munroe, AMC Cold River Camp

OLD BUSINESS

Cross-listing of trips with other committees - *Stephen Conlin*

Spring Hiking Program will collaborate with YM & Local Walks to expand offerings to participants at all levels. At end of program there will be some affiliated and cross-listed trips. There must be an HB Leader on the trip to qualify as an HB trip (and listed on REGI). Alternately, when there is not an HB leader on the trip, it will be listed as affiliated and registration will occur through OLTL or host committee's system. Cross-listed and affiliated trips will be listed for SHP participants on the SHP web-site with the relevant registration links.

Leader Appreciation Dinner Re-scheduled to 3/26/2015 - *Stephen*

Rule Change: Handling of Winter Conditions – *Carl Gustenhoven and Stephen Conlin*

First vote approved

Propose Rule 6.9 be modified to read:

Leader is a volunteer who has been approved by the Committee and granted the authority to submit trip and activity notices to the Trip Coordinator for publication in the On Line Activity Data Base (or successor thereto), and to lead hiking trips or activities, primarily day hiking and camping trips. 4 season (winter) Leaders may lead hiking and camping trips in the winter as well in the spring, summer and fall. 3 season Leaders may lead trips in the spring, summer and fall but not in calendar winter or when winter conditions are in effect.

In conjunction, propose the creation of a new Rule 6.21:

Winter Conditions will be in effect during calendar winter and whenever, in the judgment of the Trip Coordinator or at the time of the trip, there is a reasonable expectation that conditions (such as cold temperatures, wind, snow, ice, sleet or freezing rain) will be comparable to those typically experienced during calendar winter. Winter conditions will be in effect whenever snowshoes or crampons are required. Winter conditions will not apply to trips conducted east of (within) Route 495 or east of the Cape Cod Canal.

Rule Change: Rescinding Trip Approvals - *Carl Gustenhoven*

First vote approved

rule 5.2 be amended to include the following subsection 5.2.1.3:

5.2.1.3 If the circumstances of the activity change or if the Trip Coordinator becomes aware of additional pertinent information that disqualifies publication of the activity, the Trip Coordinator may rescreen the activity and rescind publication until such time as it is determined that the activity has been brought into compliance. The Trip Coordinator is expressly not required to continuously review all previously screened activities to monitor compliance, but is authorized to act when and if a change in circumstance or additional information comes to light that warrants a review of the activity.

NEW TOPICS

Budgeting for programs (relates to SHP above) - *Philip Werner, Michael Swartz*

AMC requires budget for programs - Philip presented a budget template

One-day leadership training - *Stephen Conlin*

One day training currently scheduled for May 17. For future discussion: in what circumstances would we allow a graduate of the 1 day program to lead trips for HB?

NOTE: 1 day program does not cover group dynamics or accident scene management, fewer role plays

High-level review/plan for website - Alex Nedzel

Task force to review - Anne, Elizabeth, Robert

FUTURE TOPICS

Reviewed list and deferred prioritization where time frames not indicated

- Leadership application template (April) - Carl, Keith
- How does 1-day leadership training fit in the H/B context? (April) - Stephen
- Cross Listing of Trips (April) - Stephen
- Leadership reciprocity across committees (April) - Stephen
- Revisit the hike rating system - Robert, Stephen
- Program Budgets
- Create a comprehensive participant trip feedback mechanism that permits formal complaints
- H/B privacy policy, including personally identifiable information, financial, and medical information
- Financial priorities for H/B Committee
- Program budgets/templates: SHP (Jan); WHP (June); WFA; Harvard Cabin - Philip and Michael
- We're on for hosting "Third Wednesday" session on 9/16/2015 (September) - Anne

NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 7 - Bob Knudsen, Woburn (irregular date due to SHP)

Wednesday, May 6 – Keith Watling, Southborough (irregular date due to SHP)

Tuesday, June 9 - Alex Nedzel, Lexington

NEW H/B COMMITTEE MEMBER

Pam Wilmot approved as newest HB Committee member

Adjourned 9:05pm

Executive session

Reconvene 10:00pm

Motion approved to notify a current HB Leader that a participant complaint has been lodged, that we have reviewed it, that such behavior is not acceptable, and that the committee is considering a range of actions to reduce the likelihood of such occurrences in the future. Stephen and Fred volunteered to have that conversation, and Alex volunteered to follow up and let the person lodging the complaint know that this action is being taken.

Adjourned 10:05pm

Faith Pulis and Alex Nedzel