

## **Hiking/Backpacking Committee - Boston Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club**

### **Minutes: September 8, 2015 - Monthly HB Meeting**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, September 8, 2015

**Location:** North Andover, MA, host, Carl Gustenhoven

#### **In Attendance:**

Alex Nedzel, Faith Pulis, Casey Ajalat, Bob Asch, Bob Knudsen, Carl Gustenhoven, Robert Freed, Paul Terenzi, Anne Jarek, Fred Smith, Keith Watling, Gary Schwartz

**Come to Order, 7:05pm**

June 2015 Minutes Approved

Relevant Items from Boston Chapter Executive Committee Meeting 9/2

The "3rd Wednesday Social" featuring HB has been deferred from September to October. It will be in Concord on 10/21.

The YM Committee has recruited someone to provide a regular quarterly column for the MUD regarding YM activities. Do we want to do the same? Any volunteers?

H/B Committee annual report due 10/20.

The Chapter Nominating Committee (Chm. Carl Gustenhoven) is still looking for candidates for Chapter office, especially Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. If you have any suggestions, please contact Carl.

Trip Coordinator Report Discussion - Carl reported a current total of 161 H/B activities, past and pending, in 2015. He will add a year over year comparison going forward to assist in seeing emerging trends.

Harvard Cabin Observations - cabin is mostly booked through March of 2016. The only weekends remaining are Jan 15-17, Feb 12-14, and Mar 18-20.

Webmaster - Casey reported:

- The REGI website certificate expired, and is renewed until Aug 17, 2017 (2 years)
- He's experimenting with three possible content management system choices for our hbbostonamc.org website: WordPress, Drupal, and Joomla
- He is thinking about a hiker comment/complaint capability for the website, but is still experimenting.

Winter Hiking Program - Fred reported that Anne Jarek is partnering with him this year to run the program. The kickoff meeting for the program happens tomorrow evening (9/9) at Joy Street.

WFA - Paul has two WFA weekends on the calendar currently, 10/31-11/1 and 12/5-6. There was trouble finding a cheap location again. The Girl Scout camp in Waltham doubled their price this year . It would cost \$300 for each weekend. With a lot of back and forth negotiation, Paul was able to secure Joy St for the two weekends. He is looking for more ideas for inexpensive venues affording an inside and an outside. Paul would like to get an additional two classes on the calendar.

WFA Opportunity - Bill Moss has approached Paul about offering a "scenario day" program for leaders who want more hands on/interactive practical tool to brush up on skills. This is not intended to replace current WFA requirements, Rule 3.4.3.

Unforeseen WFA certification requirements issue -- other committees have caught up with and passed us, WFA requirement-wise. For example, Family Outings requires continuous full certification, and not every H/B leader is therefore qualified to step in and lead a Family Outing, were there such a desire.

Slide show series - Julie reported that there's a talk on the calendar every month from September through April, with the exception that March is still open.

Treasurer position - Philip plans to wrap up his service as Treasurer as of December 2015, the end of his current term, and to step off the H/B committee. Fred Smith has offered to swap his role to become Treasurer provided someone else takes over his role as the Exec. Committee HB Reporter. Paul Terenzi has agreed to take over Exec. Committee HB Reporter. Fred will also pass the torch on the WHP to Anne Jarek.

#### Leadership Application

Steve Valero approved as 3 season leader.

Established a Projects and Status Chart and reviewed current outstanding and prospective projects, including:

- Process and responsibilities for website content maintenance and delivery
- Add a complaint capability to the website
- Encourage leaders to create ActDB profiles for themselves - contact info, bio, photo
- Document the responsibilities, processes, tools and timelines associated with each H/B-related role
- Assemble the H/B rules, policies and guidelines into a concise, easy to reference form
- Update our gear checklists
- Implement a process and associated policies for maintaining and documenting leadership status
- Create a participant trip feedback mechanism
- Improve/update our leadership application form and evaluation templates
- Consider hosting an Annual Special Event - like Apa Sherpa
- Revise/update the hike difficulty rating system **[rejected]**

#### WHP Fee Member & Non-member Discussion

Recommending: \$40 Member, \$70 Non-member

Will a \$30 differential motivate participants to become members? Need to determine how HB` would track whether someone becomes a member to know if this works. Could require them to include their member number in order to get the member discount.

Brainstorm: Beyond the WHP pricing discussion, what are the ways that we, as H/B, can extend special benefits to the AMC Members vs. non-members?

- Financially, as with WHP? If so how, and how much? How subsidize the differential (sources: non-members; bank account)? Should the differential be a standard absolute amount, or should it be roughly proportional to the activity price?
- Social (above/beyond the current monthly chapter socials)
- Night at a Rock Gym
- Rent an Ice Skating Rink
- Pay for a Campground
- Holiday Party
- Priority Registration?
- Frequent Participant/Door Prize

Next steps not identified.

Financial Records - source documents (i.e. bank statements) should be shared regularly with the committee. Paul specifically requested the statements for December 2014 through May 2015.

**Next meetings:**

October 13, Lexington, c/o Alex Nedzel

November 10, Belmont, c/o Stephen Conlin

December 8, Southborough, c/o Keith Watling

January 12, Natick, c/o Fred Smith

Adjourned 9:07pm

Faith Pulis and Alex Nedzel