

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

### **Minutes: October 13, 2015 - Monthly HB Meeting**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, October 13, 2015

**Location:** Lexington, MA, host, Alex Nedzel

In Attendance: Alex Nedzel, Robert Asch, Stan Dunbar, Philip Werner, Bob Knudsen, Paul Terenzi, Jeff Carlson, Carl Gustenhoven, Robert Freed, Elizabeth Ryan, Fred Smith

Come to order: 7:03 PM

September Draft Minutes approved.

#### **Recent Boston Chapter Executive Committee meeting**

- H/B is eligible for leader recognition and training grants in 2015, provided we:
  - \* file an H/B Annual Report by 10/20
  - \* provide the Executive Committee Treasurer with contact information for our current and incoming treasurers by 12/1
  - \* By 12/1, summarize how Chapter grant money was spent last year (not an issue for H/B – we did not receive any grants covering 2014).
  
- All scheduled H/B meetings should be in the Activities DB [Carl did this for all scheduled 2014-2015 H/B meetings].
  
- H/B is host for the Oct. 21 Boston Chapter New Member Social in Concord, MA. Anne Jarek will present. Other H/B Committee members and leaders are encouraged to attend as well.

The chapter-wide trip planning meeting takes place on Tuesday Oct 27, at Joy St .

A single-day leadership training class takes place on Sunday Nov 8 at the Mass Audubon society in Roslindale (not currently sufficient to meet H/B leader training requirements).

The Boston Chapter Annual Meeting is on Nov 15, at the Sandy Burr country club again. Guest speaker is Sam Jamke, outgoing Northern Regional Director. Lamar Winters, who is organizing the event, is in need of some help (many Hands make light work). If some H/B members can give some time it would be greatly appreciated. The Executive Committee is tracking how many helpers were mustered by each committee.

Deadline for the Jan/Feb Mud is Dec 1. If anyone would like to write an article for the Mud they would gladly accept.

#### **Treasurer**

Account balances as of 10/7: BofA \$14,568.82; PayPal \$2,213.61

Philip provided supporting detail as follows:

- Comparison of year-to-date revenues and expenses by category vs. last year
- Listing of all financial transactions over the past four months
- Link to all 2015 bank statements

Philip submitted grant reimbursement requests to the Boston Chapter Treasurer, cc: Jeff Carlson for the Apa Sherpa event overage of \$319.35, and 2015 to-date WFA leader reimbursements, estimated at \$530.00 if the chapter reimburses HB for 1/3 of our leader reimbursement costs.

Philip transferred BofA account ownership to the Assistant Treasurer Fred Smith (the likely successor to Philip at the end of his term. Alex has been added as a signatory to the account and Michael and Joyce have been removed. Alex and Fred both have online access to the BofA and PayPal accounts. Philip has also been voluntarily removed as an account signatory, but will continue to process reimbursement requests and oversee committee treasury functions including the annual AMC audit through the end of his term as HB Treasurer. All committee members should forward participant checks and surplus payments (made out to HB Boston Committee) to Fred, since Philip can no longer deposit them.

Philip has started documenting the Treasurer function to help Fred get up to speed on the behind the scenes tasks required by the HB Treasurer to manage HB finances and the financial controls/reporting required to comply with the AMC audit.

### **Trip Coordinator**

Carl reported that 31 H/B activities are currently on the calendar for October (23), November (6), and December (2). Current total for all of 2015 is 181.

### **Harvard Cabin**

Bob Knudsen reported that six of the eight planned cabin weekends are booked – the exceptions being Jan 15-17 and Feb 26-28.

**Trip Reporter:** no report.

### **Webmaster**

Casey presented two alternative web interfaces for handling participant complaints or comments directed to the HB committee. He invited H/B Committee members to test them and provide him with feedback.

### **Leadership**

Assistance to CT Chapter for Winter Leader Mentoring:

- Alex has been interfacing with Peg Peterson, the CT Excursions Committee Chair.
- The CT Chapter has no active winter leaders, but has a candidate who needs Winter Leader mentoring. Qualifying this one candidate will start the CT Chapter with a nucleus for their qualifying Winter Leaders.

- The CT Chapter already has its own procedures and doesn't necessarily need ours; they're just looking for the mentoring.
- Joe Comuzzi, Pam Wilmot, and Philip Werner have volunteered to mentor the CT candidate.
- We can use our existing templates for co-leads to assist in qualifying the CT Winter Leader Candidate.

In order to streamline the discussion of applications, the Leadership Applications Coordinator uses a standard template to summarize each application for presentation to the committee.

### **Leadership Applications**

William Donovan - 4 season APPROVED  
 Kjersten Reich - 3 Season APPROVED  
 John Etzel - 3 Season APPROVED  
 Tony Ng - 3 Season APPROVED  
 Karen Hoagland - 3 Season APPROVED  
 Elizabeth White - 3 Season APPROVED

### **Slide Show Series**

Julie LePage reports that the slide show and pot luck series currently has upcoming talks on 11/16, 1/13, 3/22, and April 13.

### **Winter Hiking Program**

Fred reported that the kickoff on 9/9 was very successful, producing good ideas and eager new volunteers. Publicity is very successful as well – current enrollment status is 55 participants approved (Paid) and 25 more submitted. Nineteen program trips and three affiliated hikes are planned and staffed. All but one presentation is staffed, and the last (Winter Backpacking) will not be a problem.

Fred and Anne will get together as soon as Anne gets back in town, to compare notes, figure out what is still to be done. There is no confirmation yet from EMS Marketing VP that we can do the 5th class there.

### **Spring Hiking Program**

Elizabeth reported that Cabot Hall is booked for SHP 2016. The first planning meeting will be held January 19th at Cabot Hall. Classes will be held **Wednesdays April 6 through May 4**. The Cardigan Weekend trip has been booked for May 13-15.

We are starting the course earlier this year, in order to allow for a free week ahead of Cardigan. This in turn requires that we start the trips sooner. Based on conditions in the spring, we may need to shuffle some things around.

Elizabeth is working with an idea for the 5th night that would keep us at Joy Street instead of going to Eastern Mountain Sports.

### **WFA**

Paul reported that WFA courses are currently scheduled for the 10/31-11/1 and 12/5-6 weekends. These sessions are already full, and Paul is working to schedule another for January.

### **Minors on AMC Trips**

Paul opened a discussion on wanting the AMC to change rules regarding attendance of minors (kids) on AMC led trips without a parent/guardian. The current AMC rule is that the leader must already be known to the minor or the minor is accompanied by an adult known to the minor. Situations are common wherein parents can't or don't want to attend a trip, and the child misses out on something that would have been very beneficial. The mechanism under AMC rules for introducing an AMC leader to kids who will participate and benefit is difficult to work.

### **Proposed H/B Role: Outdoor Community Liaison**

Alex proposed that we formalize an "Outdoor Community Liaison" role on the committee to foster mutually beneficial relationships between AMC/Boston hikers/backpackers with other volunteers, non-profits, government agencies, freelancers and companies in the outdoor realm.

- Provide the H/B constituency with visibility into other outdoor people/organizations/agencies
- Support people/organizations/agencies in the outdoor realm in creative, targeted ways
- In conjunction with the above, arrange special events of interest to our constituency
- Manage/grow the Pro Deals program
- Coordinate with the chapter and the club

Candidate: Keith Watling

### **Proposed H/B Role: Member Relations Coordinator**

This role would ensure coordinated thought and organization around managing and growing our relationship with the AMC members who have an interest in participating in H/B activities.

- Marketing/Communications/PR
- Coordinate an H/B column in the Mud
- Field member suggestions and complaints
- Manage H/B Facebook page
- Coordinate Chapter socials on dates when H/B is in the limelight
- Serve as a central focus for our ongoing discussion of benefits for AMC members vs. non-members among H/B participants.
- Think actively about hiker-targeted publicity in general
- H/B representative to the Chapter Membership Committee

Jeff counseled that this position would need to coordinate carefully with similar/related activities at the chapter and club levels. buy-in from both the Boston Chapter and the AMC and that we wished to avoid conflict with AMC communication rules. He noted that the Boston Chapter Executive Committee has a Member Relations Committee, concerned with member complaints, Facebook page, and Chapter socials, and our Committee could have a representative on that committee.

Robert noted that HB Announce is an example of member communications. It uses Dada Mail, which is also shared by other chapter committees (e.g. YM, 40+, and the Boston Chapter in general).

Fred was concerned about extra load and reporting on the HB Committee and mission creep. Alex will review Outdoor Community Liaison bullet points by need.

Jeff concluded with a few points to keep in mind member relations-wise:

- deeper discounts for the WHP and SHP for AMC members
- reaching out to other chapter committees for all HB programs
- using chapter member relations cards for HB leader functions such as screening and trip talks and leader retraining.

### **Scheduling, Comings and Goings**

Alex noted that since committee members are heavily involved with the various H/B events and programs, it's important to schedule these so as not to conflict with the regular H/B Committee meeting schedule. The WHP and SHP are doing this, by scheduling for Wednesdays. Thanks to Julie LePage for helping to resolve a conflict for the SHP.

Alex will not attend the November meeting. Stephen Conlin will chair.

Jeff Carlson is completing his term as Boston Chapter Chair. Our thanks go out to Jeff. The question was raised whether that frees some of his time for HB Committee work ...

After many years of service to the H/B Committee, Stan Dunbar has decided to step down from the H/B Committee. Stan was Hiking/Backpacking Committee Chair from 1993-1995, and also served in several other committee functions, such as Footnotes Editor (a Hiking/Backpacking Committee newsletter), Cardigan Coordinator for several WHP and SHP seasons, and Leadership Applications Coordinator. Beyond H/B, Stan has also served as a Paddling leader with many a whitewater story to tell; the Cardigan Lodge Committee; the Boston Chapter Executive Committee and its Nominating subcommittee; the Conservation Committee. He recalled living through the various changes that constituted the evolution of the club over his 45 years of members of membership: how the AMC has changed from being run by volunteer members; how Cardigan Lodge was once run by volunteers and that it was often viewed as a Boston and RI Chapter clubhouse; and of course how winter hiking clothing/gear has changed over those years. The committee expresses its heartfelt thanks.

### **On tap for future meetings:**

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>When</i>
Continue project portfolio discussion	All	November
Discuss recommendations for website content maintenance project	Casey	November
Leadership mentor feedback form - <google forms>	Carl	November
Finalize approach to capturing participant complaints	Casey	November
Formalize 2016 H/B Committee officer slate	Stephen	November
Conduct 2016 H/B Committee officer election	Alex	December

Discuss further how to cover the allocate the member relations base	Alex	December
Review/discuss draft trip system instructions	Carl	January

**Next meetings:**

November 10, Belmont, c/o Stephen Conlin  
December 8, Southborough, c/o Keith Watling  
January 12, Natick, c/o Fred Smith

**Adjourn time:** 9:03 PM