

# FINAL April 2016 HB Minutes

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

### **Minutes: April 12, 2016 - Monthly HB Meeting**

**DATE/TIME:** Tuesday, April 12, 2016

**LOCATION:** Somerville, Hosted by Elizabeth Ryan

#### **In Attendance:**

Members: Casey Ajalat, Jeff Carlson, Robert Freed, Anne Jarek, Bob Knudsen, Alex Nedzel  
Elizabeth Ryan, Fred Smith, Paul Terenzi, Keith Watling, Pam Wilmot

Guests: Rose Limanni, John Lisker, Faith Salter, AMC Director of Volunteer Relations

**Come to order: 07:05 PM**

**March Draft Minutes the March Minutes were reviewed and approved**

#### **OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

##### Executive Committee Report - Paul Terenzi

- Training Reimbursement
  - 100% reimbursement for training that is required for leaders at various committees  
WFA, Advanced WFA, CPR for most committees
  - Paddling has separate requirements - Swift and open water rescue
    - chapter treasurer will reimburse the committee
    - Individual requests go thru the committee
  
- Leadership Training
  - 24 of 32 slots have been registered
  - Class dates: April 14 , 21 and weekend of April 29.
  - Trip planning meeting is May 5th (great way to meet new co-leaders)
  - 3 ASL interpreters have been hired for the program
  - New member social is May 18th at the American Legion in Newtonville.
  
- Communications
  - Spring Mud publication is mid April
  - Send summer content to Larissa by June 1 (pre-Memorial Day weekend is best)
  - Fall newsletter deadline is August 29th
  - April 23/24 is next email blast window.
  
- Bike Committee - Mike Barry
  - Request for \$700 to help defray cost of road rally in June 4th in Concord was approved
  - This year's rally will be comprised of ~ 80 members, 20 non-members. Running a \$10 per person loss. They would also like to provide dinner.

- Joe Princi : Club & Chapter Updates
  - Regarding the aforementioned complaint that went to Joy Street. The individual who filed complaint has had leadership and co-lead qualifications revoked fully.
  - Looking for speaker recommendations for November Annual Meeting.
- Lacey Smith - Conservation Committee update - Request for :
  - contact points with the organization we are affiliated with.
  - what the committee constituency is interested in?
  - willing to conduct a survey of your committee?

#### Treasurers Report - Fred Smith

- The HB balance has been running the “teens of thousands.” This is slightly lower than our historic level and this is attributed to the reduced pricing structure of the winter and spring hiking programs. The pricing structure will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- Jeff Carlson requested the development of a budget.

#### Trip Coordinator's Report - Carl Gustenhoven

- Jan - March = 64 Trips (5 Backpack, 51 Day Hikes, 4 Lectures, 2 WFA, 2 Other)
- April - December = 31 Trips (2 Backpack, 22 Day Hikes, 2 Lectures, 4 Instructional, 1 WFA)
- As of today we have 95 events listed on the Activity Database for the 2016 calendar year: 7 backpacking trips, 73 hikes, 6 lectures, 4 instructional events, 3 WFA courses, 2 of other types

#### Harvard Cabin - Bob Knudsen

- No Report

#### Webmaster Report - Casey Ajalat

##### HB Website

- REGI Changes/Enhancements
  - Modified code to list the Roster by registration date for an event. This change is retroactive to any hike.

#### Spring Hiking Program - Elizabeth Ryan

- Capped registration at 125 participants
  - Members: 109
  - Non-Members: 16
  - 90 participants attended first class. Many emailed to say they were missing class for one reason or another
- Cabot Hall is now being used as a conference room during office hours (9-5) so set up for any programs or events cannot begin until after 5.
- Everything is set for the next few weeks.
- Note: There is a new version of the WMG due out next year. The sales department will allow us to return any unused guides from the program.

#### Slide Show & Potluck - Julie LePage

- Tues., May 10. Biking Across the USA

#### Leadership Applications

- Liz Westner and Tony Ng were approved to be 4 season leaders.
- John Pike and Ian Jessen were approved to be 3 season leaders.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Potential changes to the leadership requirements:
  - i. 3 season leaders:
    - 1) The applicant must be an AMC member in good standing.
    - 2) The applicant shall have completed a leadership training course approved by the Committee or demonstrate experience which the Committee deems to be equivalent
    - 3) The applicant must have been in compliance with the Committee's Wilderness First Aid requirements at the time of applying for three-season leadership status
    - 4) The applicant must have hiking/backpacking experience deemed by the committee to have presented the applicant with a sufficient breadth of challenges and contingencies to be prepared to lead the types of trips desired in a safe and fun manner
    - 5) The applicant must have conducted at least 3 total co-leads, under the direct supervision of 3 different 3 or 4 season H/B leaders
      - a) At least 2 co-leads must be organized and run as 3-season trips, in 3-season conditions must be in effect on those trips
      - b) At least 2 co-leads must take place within 1 year of the application date
      - c) No more than one co-led program trip can count
    - 6) The applicant must demonstrate competence in leadership and relevant three-season hiking and backpacking skills to the satisfaction of the Committee
    - 7) The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that he or she understands the limits of his or her abilities, and will only lead trips within the bounds specified in his/her application
  - ii. 4 season leaders:
    - 1) The applicant must be an AMC member in good standing
    - 2) The applicant must be a fully active 3-season H/B leader
    - 3) The applicant must have hiking/backpacking experience deemed by the committee to have presented the applicant with a sufficient breadth of challenges and contingencies to be prepared to lead the types of trips desired in a safe and fun manner
    - 4) The applicant must have conducted at least 5 total co-leads, under the direct supervision of 3 different 4-season H/B leaders
      - a) All co-leads must be organized and run as calendar winter trips
      - b) Winter conditions must be in effect on each co-led trip
      - c) Suggestion made that the applicant have some above tree line experience. One recommendation was that at least one co-led trip must be materially above tree line
      - d) No more than one co-led program trip can count
    - 5) The applicant must demonstrate competence in leadership and relevant 4-season hiking and backpacking skills to the satisfaction of the Committee
    - 6) The applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Committee that he or she understands the limits of his or her abilities, and will only lead trips within the bounds specified in his/her application
  - iii. Grandfather existing rules if the candidate took the leadership training course before the new rules take effect.
- b. Leader Candidate Evaluations, things to consider:
  - i. Leader and coleader complete a standard online form immediately upon completing a trip that is stored for future reference and becomes the supporting documentation for the leadership application

- ii. Young Members has developed an on line system
  - iii. Leadership subcommittee (Pam, Elizabeth et al) to meet with Phil Barona and investigate
- c. Trip Feedback:
- i. The present feedback button is available only to participants and the results are sent to the webmaster and chairperson (Casey and Alex.) It is not automated and the participant must return to Regi to access it.
  - ii. It is separate from the complaint form
  - iii. Casey will look at updating the auto e-mail to participants feature.
  - iv. We need to decide who should receive the results.
- d. Potential rule changes regarding Conduct/Harmony: Rule changes were submitted that would codify cooperation and coordination among leaders:
- i. Proposal 1: Conduct – Members who have achieved Leader or Leader Candidate status shall promote and facilitate the goals and objectives of the AMC, the Chapter, and the Hiking/Backpacking Committee. Leaders and Leader Candidates shall work cooperatively to coordinate and support all activities and events of the club and committee to the extent practicable. Leader or Leader Candidates will abide by the AMC Code of Conduct.
  - ii. Proposal 2: Harmony - Members who have achieved leader or co-leader status have joined a team that will promote and facilitate the goals and objectives of the AMC and the Hiking and Backpacking Committee. This team will work cooperatively to coordinate and support all activities and events of the club and the committee as much as possible. No leader or co-leader will knowingly take any deliberate action that could jeopardize or complicate another event or activity of the AMC or the Committee or that could reflect poorly upon the AMC, the Committee, or another leader or co-leader.

These alternatives were discussed and will be reviewed and considered at future meetings.

An aspect of the discussion will be whether HB needs a clear statement in the HB rules or if it should lie under the umbrella of the AMC.

Faith Salter confirmed that, although these concepts are implied by the spirit, rules, policies, etcetera of the club; there is no clear concise statement in a prominent document.

Although a conceptually good idea to reference and incorporate the AMC Code of Conduct, probably best to wait until it is updated by the club.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session was conducted from 08:22 to 08:48 over the objection of Paul Terenzi. The result of the session was that Faith Salter will provide a statement regarding certain leadership issues, to be shared with all who received a lengthy complaint document from an H/B leader.

[Ed: Subsequent to the meeting, Faith provided the following public statement that may be shared with all concerned parties:

“AMC staff received a letter of complaint against five members of the Boston Chapter. After careful consideration including reviewing two communications made by Mr. Glenn in reference to two different AMC members, Volunteer Relations and Risk Management staff have decided to

revoke his Leader status including all co-leader rights. If you have questions, please contact Faith Salter ([617\) 391-6614](tel:6173916614) or Aaron Gorban ([603\) 466-8054](tel:6034668054).”]

Subject to the agreement of the staff decision was made to e-mail the leaders ????

**Meeting Adjourned 08:55 PM**

**NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday, May 10 - Carl Gustenhoven, North Andover

Tuesday, June 14 - Faith Pulis, Concord

Tuesday, September 13 - Alex Nedzel, Lexington

Tuesday, October 11 - Carl Gustenhoven, North Andover

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 – Keith Watling, Southborough

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 – Bob Knudsen, Woburn

Tuesday, January 10, 2017 – Fred Smith, Natick

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 – Paul Terenzi, Medford

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 – Casey Ajalat, Billerica

Respectfully Submitted,

Carl Gustenhoven