

# DRAFT SEPTEMBER MINUTES

## Minutes: H/B Monthly Meeting – September 12, 2017

**DATE/TIME:** Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 6:30 pm

**LOCATION:** North Andover, c/o Carl Gustenhoven

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Stephen Conlin, Chair; Carl Gustenhoven, Casey Ajalat, Jeff Carlson, Robert Freed, Michael Swartz, Paul Terenzi, Keith Watling, Morgane Treanton, Zeynep Ozyuksel

**MINUTES:** Minutes of September 12, 2017 approved without updates.

### **OPERATIONAL UPDATES:**

Executive Committee - Paul Terenzi

The executive committee is hoping other committees will take on a social event to increase engagement. E-communications are now going out by Jeff Carlson and committee members can contact him for any communications that should be sent. Leadership training is scheduled for October 11-18 and 27-29. The Annual Meeting is on Sunday, November 12. The annual report is due to the executive committee by October 1; however, the HB budget is not complete and will be reviewed by the HB committee at the October meeting. After submitting the annual report to the executive committee, the HB committee can submit reimbursement requests for WFA.

Harvard cabin - Paul Terenzi

HB leaders have received a few emails from Mark Warren about low participation at Harvard Cabin. He has even had to cancel one. The committee discussed how to increase interest among leaders to lead trips out of Harvard Cabin. New leaders may not know how to plan a trip at Harvard Cabin and may feel uncomfortable reserving a date without prior experience. The committee will host a Harvard Cabin Open House to introduce new leaders, especially YM leaders, to the cabin. It's likely that the committee will underwrite the cost of the program to make the open house as accessible to leaders who have never been to Harvard Cabin.

WHP - Stephen Conlin

The search committee selected a church in Medford Square to host the WHP. The rent, location, and availability works in the locations favor. There is an express bus from Haymarket Station in Boston and a municipal parking lot across the street. There is a need to find a large enough projector and the WHP organizers may need to rent a screen. The first planning meeting is not yet set. A trip planning meeting is scheduled on November 2nd and will be held at the church. Stephen thanked everyone who put in time to find the location and scout options.

### **Discussion Items**

Couch to 4K - Stephen Conlin

The first hikes of the Couch to 4k program have started. There were introductory planning meetings with YM leaders and HB leaders to assist with organizing the program and accepting participants. Participants for this program were not screened in the traditional sense. Participants are tentatively approved for all trips and will be reviewed for each trip based on their previous Couch to 4k hikes. The program was originally planned to have 40 participants but has accepted 60. Interest in the program has been overwhelming and participants were continuing to sign up days before the official start of the program. The committee had previously discussed the idea of giving temporary leadership to some YM

leaders to assist with this program; however, all trips of greater difficulty have an HB leader.

Update on discussions with YM - Stephen Conlin

The committee continued to discuss the possibility of greater collaboration with YM and a new system for hiking trips to be run by HB and be identified as a 20-30s audience. YM leaders would have to become HB leaders to lead hikes. This idea is only in the discussion stage. There was some discussion on how the process for leadership status would look for YM leaders. With the Couch to 4k program, most YM leaders would be able to submit an HB leadership application. Leaders and co-leaders in the Couch to 4k program are filling out evaluation forms like any other HB trip.

H/B Website - Casey Ajalat

Issues remain ongoing with the website. Casey has begun to migrate data to a HostGator (?) website and is about 70-80% complete. HostGator (?) allows any HB member to update content and is user friendly. Next steps include completing the migration, which would take two weeks, and to talk with Gary about giving rights to the domain name to the committee. The Boston chapter website can redirect to the HB maintained website. The committee thanked Casey for his efforts and looks forward to helping with the new website.

Trip Reporter position - Stephen Conlin

The trip reporter position needs to be filled. The committee sends trip reports to the forest service and Alex Nedzel is taking care of the backlog. This position also provides data to the chair for the annual report. Any committee member who is interested can reach out to Stephen.

Update on WFA -- Stephen Conlin and Paul Terenzi

WFA classes have been filling up fast. Paul has planned four classes and most have sold out requiring him to hire another instructor. The classes are being held at the Thoreau Club. Further discussion on WFA will happen at the October meeting when Alex is able to attend. The committee will discuss WFA requirements and lapsed leader certification.

Chapter-wide REGI - Jeff Carlson and Stephen Conlin

The chapter is aiming to release a chapter-wide version of REGI on December 1. They are two weeks behind on user acceptance; but it looks robust so far. As of May, there are 6600 users in REGI and the chapter is expecting triple the amount once REGI is introduced to 11 committees and 14 constituencies. There will be no outward change to current users and the transition is expected to go smoothly. There will be some changes to trip postings for leaders. The chapter is working on testing and is almost ready for feedback. The chapter is also looking at electronic trip waivers and payment acceptance; although, these possibilities will not happen during the December introduction of REGI. The HB committee will identify a small group of people to review REGI in late September.

Update on New leadership application process - Stephen Conlin

Since introducing the new application process, the committee has received 23 co-leader self evaluation and 24 leader evaluations. Most of these evaluations have been for three-season trips; although, some leaders have gone back to submit evaluations for four-season trips. The committee should be able to see this process in action at the October meeting when leadership applications are reviewed.

*Executive Session*

The committee discussed ongoing leadership issues and committee recruitment.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** 9:15 pm

Thank you to Carl for hosting.