

FINAL December MINUTES

Minutes: H/B Monthly Meeting – December 12, 2017

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, December 12, 2017, 6:30 pm

LOCATION: Natick, c/o Fred Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: Stephen Conlin (chair), Alex Nedzel, Rose Limanni, Fred Smith, Jeff Carlson, Robert Freed, Michael Swartz, Paul Terenzi, Jess Halvorsen (guest)

MINUTES: Minutes of November 14, 2017 approved with updates made by Stephen Conlin.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

Executive Committee

Program booking for the new AMC headquarters in Charlestown begins in January. On December 20, there will be a walk through for all AMC committee members who have booked Joy Street in the past and for those members who will need to book City Square in the future. The annual summit will be on January 27 at the Sheraton in Norwood. The conservation committee is looking for new members. The winter MUD deadline is December 29 for the January issue and this will be the last MUD organized by Larissa. As reported at the last meeting, funds are moving from some committees up to the chapter level but it is not certain how this will effect the HB committee. There is an opening for the secretary position on the executive committee. The executive committee has approved a leadership scholarship program for three years. These scholarships will be awarded to 2 leaders per committee for \$1,800 per committee for further training such as avalanche rescue, first responder, and search and rescue. Each committee will nominate leaders for these scholarships and they will be awarded by the Executive Committee. The HB committee thanks Paul and Chris Malinkowski for all their efforts to move the scholarship program further. The first nominations are due in April and the HB committee will need to vet interest and gather nominations by February. There was some discussion about how to make sure leaders trained in these skills would be able to share with the chapter as a whole.

Treasurer's Report

Accounts currently hold \$15,084; however, the Charlie Linville check has yet to be cashed. Once that has left HB accounts, there will be \$12,454 available. The winter hiking program receipts are mostly in and the only other remaining expense is the tip for Cardigan weekend.

Harvard Cabin

The town is looking at Harvard Cabin to see about approving composting toilets. The total cost of the project is projected to be a little over \$1,300 with materials and donated labor. The new heating unit will be installed next month. Planning for the leaders-only weekend is ongoing and needs a coordinator. This trip is expected to occur in April or May. There is some concern that Subsig Cabin is using the AMC name to organize trips but more research is needed.

Trip Coordinator's Report

Discussion Items

Winter Hiking Program Update - Jess Halvorsen

The classroom portion of the WHP is now finished. There a total of 120 participants in the program this year. There was increased interest in WHP trips and trips were added to mitigate long wait lists. Over all, people did not seem bothered about travel to Medford. The program ended up with a waitlist of 14 people with 112 originally accepted. The church location worked very well and the volunteers were fantastic. A survey will go out to all participants with new questions

about how the location influenced their ability to take the program and how they traveled to Medford. Jess would recommend hosting the program in Medford again or rotating to regional locations as determined. There were minor problems with participants signing up for two trips on a weekend and last minute cancellations. Changes will be made to stop double signs ups. Jess will update the committee one more time as WHP trips move forward into the winter.

Election of Officers - Stephen Conlin

The HB officer slate is voted on in December and the vice-chair slate is voted on in January. Carl Gustenhoven has suggested that he step down from vice-chair and trip coordinator due to weekday travel. Stephen suggested dividing responsibilities with the new trip coordinator and two assistant coordinators. Stephen nominated Keith Watling as trip coordinator, recommended Morgane Treanton as assistant trip coordinator, and asked for Robert Freed to remain as the second assistant trip coordinator in charge of HB Announce. Robert recommended that the trip coordinator and assistants apply consistent standards to trip approvals. The committee voted to elect the following persons to the position next to their name.

2018 Officers

Stephen Conlin, Chair

Fred Smith, Treasurer

Rose Limanni, Secretary

Keith Watling, Trip Coordinator

Morgane was also approved as assistant trip coordinator, but that is not an officer position. The committee briefly discussed the number of trip approvers in the database and further discussion will be needed.

Enforcement of WFA policy - Stephen Conlin/Alex Nedzel

Alex explained an enforcement mechanism around grouping leaders based on a coded annual system on when their WFA status needs recertification. Those leaders who are out of compliance would be pulled out of valid leader types and unable to post trips. This system would not require further verification by trip approvers at the time a trip is reviewed. To permit this mechanism to work, the H/B committee would need to change the WFA policy to focus on a calendar year rather than specific date (that is, x years from the end of the year in which WFA was taken, rather than x years from the precise date WFA was taken). Down the road, other committees would need to harmonize with this coding system but it is not a concern immediately.

Looking at the current statistics, there are 86 active leaders, 23 (including 6 winter leaders) of whom are out of compliance with the WFA certification policy. The committee should expect some leaders to no longer comply and these leaders will be unable to post trips within the new system.

The committee was in agreement that the WFA policy should be enforced, and accepted the mechanism proposed by Alex. The committee decided that the new enforcement mechanism should go into effect on June 1, 2017, and that notice of the new mechanism would be given to leaders prior to that time. To allow for the implementation of that mechanism, the committee also voted to revise the WFA policy as follows:

Current Policy

In order to maintain active leadership status, an individual must successfully complete an approved Wilderness First Aid course at least as often as every three years, except that an individual who has successfully completed an approved Wilderness First Aid course at least twice (and at least one time while an active leader) must successfully complete an approved Wilderness First Aid course at least as often as every five years.

Revised Policy

In order to maintain active leadership status, an individual must successfully complete an approved Wilderness First Aid course by December 31st of the third year following the date of the leader's last course, except that an individual who has successfully completed an approved Wilderness First Aid course at least twice (and at least one time while an active leader) must successfully complete an approved Wilderness First Aid course by December 31st of the fifth year following the date of the leader's last course.

The motion to approve the policy change was approved. The motion to enforce WFA compliance as of June 1, 2018 was

approved.

H/B Website - Casey Ajalat

Tabled for January meeting.

Chapter-wide REGI - Jeff Carlson

Chapter-wide REGI is ongoing and nearing completion. They are working to speed up a new feature where you can directly invite other leaders and co-leaders once an activity listing as been created. Leaders will be notified about this new functionality.

Update on committee collaboration - Stephen Conlin

Conversation is ongoing and will be discussed at the January meeting.

Leader from Berkshire Chapter - Stephen Conlin

Eliot Levine is Interested in co-leading winter trips and becoming a Boston chapter leader. To date, he is not in the system as an H/B co-leader because he has not taken the Boston leadership training program. The committee discussed whether his training with the Berkshire and Worcester chapters was comparable with the Boston training. The committee approved a motion to accept his leadership training and accept him as a H/B co-leader. He is happy to go through the leadership application process, but the committee may in the future consider allowing some of him Berkshire chapter trips to count toward his leader status with H/B.

Further Discussion Topics

The committee should consider discussing a rule to determine if a committee member can participate electronically or by phone.

Executive Session

The committee was reminded that leadership application information must remain confidential when shared. Jack Wah was approved as a 3-season leader.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:28 pm

Thank you to Fred for hosting.