

H/B Monthly Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2020

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, June 9 meeting at 7:00pm

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting (online)

1. Introduction/Welcome

2. **Approve Minutes** - May 12th - Approved with edits on WHP location

3. **Operational Updates** (if needed beyond the written updates) (10 min)

Functions (Executive Committee; Treasurer; Trip Coordinator; Harvard Cabin; Trip Reporter; Leadership)

Programs (WHP; SHP; WFA; Lecture Series); active projects, Social Media

Executive Committee (Elizabeth Ryan)

- Retreat this Saturday to discuss "AMC 150 Goals"
- 3 open positions on Exec Committee: nominating committee, assistant treasurer, communications coordinator
- Web Developer open position (paid!)
- Annual Meeting (11/8/20) will be virtual
- Relaunch plan discussion (to be continued)

Treasurer (Rob Zoletti)

BOA 9499.83 + PP 1435.15 = 10,634.98

One payment outstanding for presentation

Asst Treasurer position on hold

Chapter training reimbursement delay

Trip Approvers: no updates

4. Discussion Items

a. Update on the inactive leader policy (Alex N.) : not at this time

Note: look at the WFA requirement and leaders whose credentials are expiring. Check to see what SOLO is doing/offering.

a. Online events

i. Tom K's 700 Miles on the AT presentation (May 20th) : very successful! Check HB Facebook page for a video.

ii. Philip Carcia's event on June 3rd: single-year grid presentation also successful and well attended (91 people!)

- Suggestions: create best practices on running webinars. Have someone field last-minute registrants? Clarify how to register for online events with REGI?
- Consider extending to 1 hour 15 minutes
- Action Item: start a group on OneNote to collaborate on webinar best practices

i. Panel event?

- No future events scheduled. What's next?
- Standard presentation/Q&A, panel event
- We haven't solicited from leaders or members -- HB Announce
- Put out a request for thematic ideas (local hikes? 101 Backpacking? How to Pack Your Pack? Favorite Local Restaurants?)
- Could crowdsource videos to post
- We now have access to AMC's zoom account (300 ppl)

a. Social Media presence (Alex B.)

- Confusion over how to register for online events
- Will make the link even more visible
- REGI link is somewhat confusing -- explain to leave the questions blank
- Adding video to FB is easy
- Nearing 2,000 followers -- exciting!

a. WHP 2020-2021 - what can we do now to plan for WHP? (Jess Halvorsen)

- Last month we touched briefly on planning well in advance without knowing a lot of details about trip leadership and ability to get out and hike
- Jess touched base with the church -- open to the possibility of hosting
- Should we assume now that we should do the classroom portion online?
- Need to discuss the trip portion
- Booking the big trips: how to proceed?
- Need to send out notes to ppl who usually host those trips to make sure it's clear that we don't know what the rules are going to be; don't make a financial commitment at this point
- Capacity? Likely can't do some of the big hikes that have been done in the past. Likely need to revamp the program with smaller hikes in mind. Going online doesn't mean we can have more participants; the hikes always going to be the limiting factor. Group will likely have to be smaller since we don't know yet how many/what hikes we can run and what leaders will be willing to run trips.
 - We don't know yet what the hike regulations will be
 - Still makes sense to plan for the 5 online classes.
 - Could use local reservations and do local hikes in lieu of the big NH hikes
- Suggestion: create two events (online only & outdoor); if online only they wouldn't be eligible for the hikes
 - Could be complicated
 - Depends on how reopening goes
- Club consensus is: don't make reservations at all. If you don't make a res you'll lose out on Cardigan and Highland and Joe Dodge. Not approved but consensus is that if no deposit is made, you can make a res with the AMC because then the club is moving together on policy and if we have to cancel it's because of AMC and we won't lose money.
 - Note: Club's "phase 2" is different than MA Phase 2.
- How to handle registration for program trips in the format we are going to use? WHP/SHP is unique in terms of scale, format, and structure. Need to circle back to the chapter.
- We should plan for an ideal situation, even if it doesn't happen that way (e.g., if there's a resurgence)
- Decide now to hold WHP online? Comments?

- Hard to imagine we can have 100 ppl in a room in November. Even if it's allowed, it probably wouldn't be ethical until there's a vaccine (ETA Christmas)
 - Let's start thinking about what the structure will look like online. Videos, Zoom, storyboard, etc. Start contacting the relevant presenters.
- Action Item: Jess to make the call whether to hold it online or try to do it in person, and determine what support is needed to make it happen.
 - a. AMC's Phased relaunch plan (Elizabeth Ryan)
- (1) Volunteer trail maintenance activities; (2) resumption of volunteer-led activities and trips; (3) whatever our new normal looks like, TBD
- Small group of HB committee members went through document to gather questions.
- Phase 2 will fall to trip approvers and committee chairs to make sure leaders comply with AMC guidelines. Decision: Don't approve trips unless we are confident that they meet the requirements. If questions talk to the leaders, guide through that process, and if needed can seek further guidance from chapter.
- All Leaders and trail maintainers **must** take this training; it will be managed by the Club. It will be tracked in ActDB.
 - Timing still TBD
- Leaders will have a responsibility to run "covid aware" trips. Mentoring of new coleaders will have to be put on hold. Coleaders won't really be taking on the usual trip planning and screening responsibilities since they won't be taking the COVID-specific online training
- Things to think about the following when planning trips:
 - Social distancing within the group and between other groups will be enforced on the trail.
 - Need to be thinking about things like how popular is the area in question? EG: avoid Franconia Ridge in July
 - Think about the space that will be available to you on trail. Is there a place on the trail that wouldn't allow the group to maintain their distance?
 - Come up with plans B & C (e.g., what to do if trailhead is full)
 - Must be included in trip posting and communicated to trip approvers to ensure leader has thought through this
- The ask is don't place a deposit on any reservation until Phase 2 and even then make sure that's subject to ensuring the location can accommodate AMC's guidelines. Consider using club facilities that have more lenient cancellation policies.
- Registration and Waivers: must register all participants through Outdoors.org, not through REGI. Can still post trips to REGI for advertising purposes, but the chapter recommends that we don't require participants to register in both places. The reason is that participants must complete their waivers ahead of time and will be handled by the club.
 - Waivers will include things like having face masks on hand when social distancing isn't possible
 - Will make contact tracing possible if there's an instance of COVID
 - **Action Item: we must learn how to register and manage participants through ActDB.**
 - Unclear on how overnight trips will work
- Screening: further steps will need to be taken; communication around social distancing and contact tracing. This will be included in online training so leaders will be prompted on what to say. Screening will need to be more rigorous/conservative.
 - Note: only leaders can do the screening, although coleaders can sit in and learn/be mentored

- Question around issue of multiple states/land management agencies. (most of the Whites are open but not Mt Washington) -- is there a central repository of information on state closures?
Status: no updates yet, but hopeful that it can happen.
 - To reach AMC Phase 2, states fully need to reopen. And AMC will need to declare its Phase 2.
- HB specific: trip approvers will be taking on a larger role than usual and should be in collaboration with trip leaders and chair is responsible for ensuring their committees are in compliance.
 - Need to issue guidance to HB leaders surrounding these points (incl carpooling)
- Smaller working group will continue.
 - a. Executive session (8:50pm)
 - i. Committee membership
 - ii. Leader applications: N/A
 - a. TBD - 3 season
 - b. TBD - 4 season

5. Next Meetings

Tuesday, July 28th - Online