

H/B Monthly Meeting Minutes

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

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting (online)

1. **Introductions and Welcome** – In attendance: Elizabeth Ryan, Keith Watling, Katie Bartel, Rob Zoletti, Alex Nedzel, Jessica Halvorsen, Morgane Treanton, Chao Xie, Stephen Conlin, Jim Robinson with Bob Vogel / Deb Conrady / Michael Hanley as guests
2. **Approve Minutes (October)** – Approved with one edit: add Leadership Coordinator to nonofficer positions
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; #BeOnline); active projects, Social Media

Executive Meeting (Elizabeth Ryan):

- Conservation, DEI, WFA
- WFA training is backlogged; will run trainings with AMC accredited staff until SOLO clears the backlog
- Despite some initial confusion, the new vaccine policy was well received on the whole
- Annual meeting this Sunday, 11/14! Exciting panel about “Belonging in the Outdoors”
- Budget: 10% in insurance fees
- Activity committee review: Trails Committee and Intro Committee were disbanded. Other committees have been asked to take up the work of the Trails Committee
- Leadership Committee: 20 graduates from fall multiday program. Two programs in the works for spring (single & multiday). Still looking for more members: Affinity, DEI, and Member at Large
- Code of Conduct: disseminate this information to leaders via training. Gathering feedback is an increasing area of focus not just for programs but also for hikes/events.

Treasurer (Rob Zoletti):

- BOA, PP = ??
- Keep PP small. Will close and open another one that is under the Boston tax ID.
- Budget was reviewed. Microspikes were questioned but approved. They should be moved to “Assets – Other,” not part of WHP, and they belong to the Boston Chapter, not just HB. Is there a system in place to track them to ensure proper return?
- Tom Kenyon will be set up as co-signer on BOA account.

Trip Approvers (Morgane Treanton):

- 8 non-WHP hiking trips posted
- Need to screen for COVID vax or test status. That language is automated in ActDB. Common Mistakes will be updated.
- Leader vaccination requirement – needed to be updated
- The front-country subcommittee was activated. Nothing posted yet but in the works.
- Still requiring the line about face masks? Does that auto-populate? It’s not a requirement and does not auto-populate, but it’s good to include.

- **Discussion Items**
- WHP 2021 - Jess Halvorsen - 10 min
- WHP started last week. Trips are being posted and will open in three waves (Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, Feb/Mar).
- In-person Counselor social on 11/18
- Potential concern – winter hiking gear supply chain appears to be limited

- WFA extension - Elizabeth - 20 min
- 2 years of backlog – no training in 2020 or 2021. Anyone whose WFA expired during that time have been operating under a waiver – about 60 leaders
- Motion to extend the WFA waiver through the end of 2022 and reconsider at that time
- JH: the reasonable expectation is that WFA is available, people should take it. Not knowing what will be available when, as WFA restarts / starts through AMC, consider a shorter timeframe? Anyone whose certification is actively expiring should be looking for other opportunities. A shorter timeframe might encourage people to recertify
- AN: A 2-stage recertification plan would be feasible. Stage 1 (beginning now): we announce a June 30 deadline for 2020 and 2021 leaders to re-certify. Stage 2 (beginning July 1): if the required number of re-certification spots have proven not to be available, we then announce a further extension to December 31, 2022. At whatever point we determine that the time has come to end the extensions, we simply code the ActDB to no longer accept folks as active leaders who have 2021 (or earlier) WFA designations.
- JR: no need to overextend the waiver for 12 months now. Suggest extending to July 1, and then reconsider as needed at subsequent meetings.
- Suggest finding and posting opportunities further afield (Narragansett, Connecticut, SE Mass, etc.) The challenge is finding a location, not necessarily the instructors. E.g., Thoreau Club is a possibility. HB may be able to organize a group class.
- AMC will run some. SOLO is also offering a hybrid course for recertification (8-12 hours online, 1 day doing a practical).
- Chapter can defray some of the cost for non-AMC WFA courses, but can't cover all of it.
- KW: what about leader candidates who are ready except for WFA? Approve with an exception? Decision: no.
- **Motion passed to extend the WFA Waiver through 6/30/22 and reevaluate at that time.**
- **Action items: extension to 6/30/2022 for anyone whose WFA lapsed through 1/1/21, organize a training through HB, and post a list of trainings. JR to create a website and AN to send out the announcement to the listserv.**

- Need HB rep for Chapter meeting in December - Keith - 5 min
- 12/6, 7pm, zoom – Jim Robinson

- Microspikes – accessibility and cost (Chao)
- Accessibility issue resolved – the spikes can be used by anyone, not just HB Committee. They are the Chapter's resources. There will be 12-14 pairs when combined with YM.
- It will be more complicated with 2 committees. Work on improving management and tracking. Logistics can be fine-tuned as the program gets underway. Combine tracking for YM and HB microspikes. Share best practices among all committees.
- Logistics – where will they reside, who will manage the spikes, who picks up and returns the spikes?
- YM: 2 leaders, one south of BOS, one north. One spreadsheet shows who has the spikes. Whoever wants to borrow the spikes reaches out to the leader. Pick-up is done either the leader or the

participant. Returning: in practice, it's returned to the 2 leaders in charge, but sometimes it's coordinated among the participant network.

- Cost: would like to explore a middle-of-the-road option that's not the most expensive or least expensive option. Want to show participants that its OK to have gear that isn't the most expensive.
Decision: purchase 1 or 2 less expensive pairs.

- Executive session
- Leader applications
- a. Amy Kelliher was approved as a 3-season leader
- Committee composition

a.

- **Next Meetings**

Tuesday, December 14th – Virtual