

H/B February Monthly Meeting Minutes

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, February 8, meeting at 7:00pm

LOCATION: Zoom Meeting (online)

1. **Introductions and Welcome**

2. **Approve Minutes (January) – Approved** with amendment to trip approver section. In attendance: Keith Watling, Morgane Treanton, Katie Bartel, Tom Kenyon, Alex Bernson, Stephen Conlin, Deb Conrady, Jess Halvorsen, Alex Nedzel, Eric Robbie, Jim Robinson, Elizabeth Ryan, Pam Wilmot, Chao Xie, Rob Zoletti Guests: Jon Niehof, Jesse Waites, Dennis McCarthy, Eric Ashwell, Ed Batutis, Sarah Frisken, Bob Vogel, Pat Grimm

3. **Operational Updates** (if needed beyond the written updates) (10 min)
 - a. Executive Committee (Keith Watling)
 - Reserve spending: \$50,000 in reserve account avail in April, and \$40,000 in October. Can be spent on anything consistent with AMC project and priorities, but nothing currently in the budget.
 - a. These are for big projects such as rebuilding shelters, improvements to Harvard Cabin; Bay Circuit Trail; preservation of Rumney climbing system. Smaller scale projects can be addressed during the normal budget cycle.
 - New reimbursement policy for training courses: \$200.

Treasurer (Tom Kenyon /Rob Zoletti)

- See attached report.
- Ending balance: \$12,000.
- Still trying to get TK on the BOA account
- PayPal fees: 3% add up throughout the year.
- Audit is closed

- Trip Approver (Morgane Treanton/Katie Bartel)
- Technical issues are resolved.
- Seeking permission to automate REGI/ActDB status mismatch: this is working so far and we will keep monitoring.

- Trip Reporter
- Ed Batutis is taking over from Chris Malinowski

- Harvard Cabin (Mark Warren): [postponed]

Programs

- a. Winter Hiking Program (Jess Halvorsen)
- b. Trips are still ongoing; some were rescheduled due to weather.
- c. Next steps: send out annual survey and onboard Eric Robbie as the new WHP coordinator.

- d. Spring Hiking Program (Sarah Frisken)
 - Key positions filled including Cardigan, trip planning, and mentorship
 - Saturday April 9, 2-4pm, in-person session will replace breakout sessions & mentor/mentee session

- Next steps: open registration and determine participant fee given that the cost is \$5pp. Aiming for 100 participants.
 - \$15-\$25 to encourage buy in
 - SLP (Jon Niehof)
 - Dates and venues are set for both the leadership training programs
 - 1 day (5/1/22 @ Boston Nature Center), \$15 pp
 - full program (5/5 on zoom; 5/12 at AMC headquarters; 5/20-5/22 by the Blue Hills), \$75 pp
 - Trip planning meeting will be held shortly thereafter
 - HB Announce (Jim Robinson)
 - Several editions have gone out successfully. JR working with Chao on obtaining all the data.
 - 1800 subscribers
 - Included a DEI link
 - Social Media/Website (Alex Bernson)
 - Facebook has 2380 followers
 - Gear sale page (89 members) has the most traction
 - Send trips, events, etc., to Alex to post on FB to try to increase activity
 - **Discussion Items**
 - 2022 Goals (Keith Watling)
 - Goals were submitted. Committee will review throughout the year.
 - Active conservation: 100 vol hours of trail work w/in New England. Spearheaded by Bob Vogel in Boston area; Keith Watling in Gunstock region.
 - Outdoor Journey: advertise 1 DEI-related event per month via both HB Announce and HB Facebook page to promote DEI awareness
 - Disseminate to the broader HB community
 - WFA Update (Alex Nedzel)
 - WFA courses sponsored by the club are now available
 - AN to send a personalized form letter to people in 4 different categories: leaders expiring in 2022 (36), leaders expiring in 2021 (30, who have until 6/30 to renew), expired leaders (47), and coleaders
 - Leaders can contact AN directly after they complete the course
 - Policy for Leading Trips in the WMNF (Alex Nedzel)
- Goal: provide information for HB leaders to better follow Forest Service rules/regulations
- Outfitter Guide Program / "guide card"
 - Basic rules and practices while you're in the forest – shares definitive sources where leaders can find information (e.g., legal campsite locations)
 - Following wilderness area regulations:
 - Headcount limits in wilderness areas (10 person max including leaders)
 - don't lead any groups into the heart of the wilderness, which the Forest Service defines as "zone A" areas -- any terrain more than 500 feet from a trail. It's OK to traverse the wilderness on trails but not to bushwhack in a wilderness area.

This means there is only one way to do Owl's Head (i.e., with all the stream crossings). Isolation is the other 4000er in question (no Engine Hill Bushwhack).

- Vote at the next meeting: (1) respect wilderness area group size by capping them at 6 in order to ensure compliance with 10 person max; (2) avoid leading Zone A group hikes.

- REGI Updates (Morgane Treanton)
- Background: REGI used to be exclusive to HB, which moved to chapter level. When that transition happened, our committee couldn't fix bugs, etc. We were told there would be a REGI committee and it's never been updated at the chapter level. Has there been any effort to improve this at the chapter level?
 - It's a priority for the chapter, sorting out initial issues before addressing bug fixes. If there are issues, let Jesse Waites know. Elizabeth Ryan is trying to understand how we've arrived at the current state of technology management.
 - We do not have access to the development system.
 - CX: We used to pay someone named Brad, and all of that communication went via Jeff.
 - ER: This is a very high-priority issue, and it's been escalated to the club.
 - ER: How to leverage modern development practices around teamwork/sharing knowledge to move this forward until the Club's planned replacement is in place (i.e., a replacement for ActDb)
 - JR: Doing our own development isn't the direction we should pursue. Unfortunately, the best solution would be to stop using REGI until a replacement is in place.

- Chapter Technology Survey Response (JH) – Jess will disseminate by email
- Front Country leader role development (JH) – postponed to March meeting. Goal is to discuss ongoing monitoring of the new front country leader program. Will discuss about types of trips, uptake, and how to monitor to ensure it's working.

1. Executive session

- . Committee Positions – Eric Robbie and Sarah Frisken will join the committee as WHP and SHP coordinators, respectively.
- a. Leader applications
 - i. Eric Ashwell was approved as a 3-season leader.
 - ii. Anna Goodheart was approved as an HB Front Country leader.
 - iii. Mike Hanley was approved as an HB Front Country leader.

6. Next Meetings

Tuesday, March 8th - Virtual

Tuesday, April 12th - Virtual

Tuesday, May 10th - ??

Tuesday, June 10th - ??

Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm.