

**Worcester Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
December 7, 2016 (November Meeting)**

Attendees: Dave Cole, Joe Massery, Charlie Arsenault, Pat Lambert, Steve Crowe, Michele Simoneau, Gina Shea, David Elliott, Christina Ferretti, John Grote, Fred Mezynski, Bruce Wester, Barbara Dyer, Jose Schroen, Bruce Wester, Karen Maki, Pat Flanagan (minutes), Ingrid Molnar, Alexandra Molnar, Zenya Molnar, Jonathan Dirodi, Kim Simpson

The meeting was called to order at 6:35

Dave Cole presiding.

Welcome new board members

Dave welcomed new and returning members and shared his perspective on being members of the EC, then invited other EC members to share their own. New EC members then posed a few questions to ongoing members.

Mentoring check in

Dave checked in with the new EC members regarding their interactions with assigned mentors. All reported things going well.

In discussion, Karen noted some outreach opportunities at local events and locations. She was encouraged to call on others to help staff these.

6:50pm NORMAL BUSINESS

• **Approve Secretary's Report (Pat F.):**

The October report was approved without changes.

• **Approve Treasurer's Report (Jose S.):**

October report:

Pat L queried Jose about Club level meetings in the operations line regarding increase in costs; Jose confirmed that the price per person to attend these meetings increased which impacted the charges for the operations and endowment line items.

The October report was approved with no adjustments.

November report:

Jose reported Annual Meeting costs had been missing but are now added. Final numbers are \$4831 spent and \$1960 was taken in. As is typical, operating funds supplement the member payment for the Annual Meeting event. This year the chapter came in under budget for that subsidy.

Charlie confirmed with Jose that another allocation is expected from HQ this year. Four payments per year are received, based on chapter membership.

Final budget amounts will be available in January. Jose will put probable forecasts together for the December budget planning meeting.

The November report was approved without changes.

Additional budget discussion:

-The chapter pays some cost for liability coverage each year. Rental or Loaner waivers shall be necessary for a chapter boat loan or rent program Dave Elliot is starting. It's important to not bypass the form, to protect the chapter and individual leaders. Dave Elliot to follow up with other chapters on process and forms for equipment loan or rental.

-There was discussion about self-funded events and when deposits should be paid. If a deposit is required it should not be paid until the time it is required by the site. For AMC locations, a deposit can be circumvented by requesting a group reservation number for registrants to use.

- **Endowment Proposals review and Approval (Pat Lambert)**

Mountain Classroom

The June Mountain Classroom trip will involve 50 students and involves climbing Cardigan and to the falls with a stay at the lodge. Students also learn leadership and outdoor skills. The AMC price is now reduced by \$7 per student after negotiation with the director, plus transportation costs. The chapter contribution keeps the cost from pricing the event out of possibility for the students. This year the total endowment request cost is an extra thousand dollars more than last year due to the increase in the program costs. The school helps defray costs, as well. Barbara expressed her thanks to the chapter for supporting the event. Funding of this endowment for the classroom was approved in the amount of \$3500.

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JUMP

Pat L reported past chapter funding. JUMP leaders take underprivileged children to the White Mountains and also train them in associated hard and soft skills. She relayed one participant's story and her work to raise funds for JUMP by making and selling parachord bracelets. A decision was made to buy 30. Pat L will handle the order. JUMP's next event is Saturday, Jan 21st, 5-7pm, at Fruitlands, following a daytime winter hiking course. Pat is looking for an EC member to volunteer to attend this event as she is leading a hike in the Whites that day.

- **Volunteer of the Month (Joe M.):**

There were 24 nominees for November 2016:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	
Dana Perry	Debi Garlick	Gear presentation at Winter Hiking Workshop
Denise Guillemette	Debi Garlick	Gear presentation at Winter Hiking Workshop
Walt Lazarz(1)	Debi Garlick	Gear presentation at Winter Hiking Workshop
Sue Ostrowski	Debi Garlick	Gear presentation at Winter Hiking Workshop
Paul Glazebrook(1)	Debi Garlick	Slide and gear presentation at Winter Hiking Workshop
Jean Langley	Debi Garlick	Registraton at Winter Hiking Workshop
Janice Melchiore	Debi Garlick	Registraton at Winter Hiking Workshop
*Pat Flanagan	Debi Garlick	Helping out at Winter Hiking Workshop.

*Deb Herlihy	Debi Garlick	Helping out at Winter Hiking Workshop.
*Jose Schroen	Debi Garlick	Helping out at Winter Hiking Workshop.
*Joe Massery	Debi Garlick	Helping out at Winter Hiking Workshop.
Emerson Grant	Steve Crowe	Work on Stratton Pond Shelter and trail work on Wachusett.
Bill Caulway	Steve Crowe	Work on Stratton Pond Shelter
Malcolm Beauvais	Steve Crowe	Work on Stratton Pond Shelter
Denny LaForce	Steve Crowe	Work on Stratton Pond Shelter and Long Trail
George Fardy	Steve Crowe	Work on Pine Hill Trail
Fran Gribbons	Steve Crowe	Work on Pine Hill Trail
Claudine Mapa(1)	Pat Lambert	Almost completed upcountry, 4-season hike leadership credentials.
Walt Lazarz(2)	Pat Flanagan	For being a great leadership mentor.
Debi Garlick	Charlie Arsenault	Winter Hiking Workshop: Organizer extraordinaire
Claudine Mapa(2)	Charlie Arsenault	Winter Hiking Workshop: 20s and 30s super leader
Paul Glazebrook(2)	Charlie Arsenault	Winter Hiking Workshop: Dr. Winter
Dick Kisten	David Elliott	Cheerful and helpful paddling co-leader.
Emerson Grant	Mike Foley	For all he does on the Wachusett adopt-a-trail program.

NOVEMBER WINNER:
Malcolm Beauvais

- **Food:**

Cake was served to celebrate new committee members.

7:10pm NEW BUSINESS

- **Annual meeting feedback**

Comments and ideas were collected. It was decided that for the Volunteer of the Year the full membership should have a voice in the election, for example by voting via the 12th email blast. Joe will work out the details before the next Annual Meeting. A change to the raffle, which doesn't net adequate funds, may be made; an activity that engages everyone, such as a trivia game or staffed demo tables, would be preferred. The social portion before dinner may be lengthened, as people don't stay after the dinner and meeting. Presentation will wait until after the meal so people's backs won't be to the screen. More information about post-event opportunities should be circulated in advance. Appie of the Year and Volunteer of the Year will be given the opportunity to say a word if they would like.

Barb congratulated Dave on running the meeting well.

The date for next year is November 11th, in the same room at The Manor.

- **Task Force for budget planning**

The task force will be Dave, Joe, Pat F, Jose, Charlie, Steve Ciras, Karen, and Deb. A new process for proposing a budget to make the approval process easier is the goal.

- **Update of our Website**

Dave noted that all chairs should review their respective webpage and provide updates to Webmaster if they haven't already. Available at amcworchester.org

- **Year Planning Meeting**

The meeting is Sunday, January 8th at 10:30am. Any focus ideas can be proposed, either at the meeting or by email to Dave beforehand. The group will decide which to pursue and how they can move forward successfully. Lunch is included.

- **Kayak purchase request (Dave Elliott)**

Dave E requested \$350 for a kayak purchase. Additional fund requests will be made for PFDs for all chapter boats. These will include children's sizes. Dave E also plans a new program out of the boat shed being built. Like the NH chapter, there would be a rental fee with a discount for members. If a leader approves borrowing, the requester is given the combination making it basically self service. Dave thanked Dave E for constructing the shed. The request was approved.

- **MeetUp organizer needed for 2017**

The committee is looking for a volunteer to be the new organizer. Gina Shea volunteered through June. Charlie suggests in future it could be assigned to a specific chair as part of their duties.

- Welcoming visitors to our meetings (Dave/all)

1. A schedule for personal invites (?) what do we think [Dave: not discussed?]

- **The Newsletter: Ideas to help our new team generate content**

More photos would enhance the newsletter. Dave suggested following on the "On the Road with the Endowment Chair..." method. Should we encourage activity leaders to provide photos for the newsletter, two per newsletter. We could use an email blast to request them. The newsletter comes out quarterly, but there is some flexibility. One is anticipated in January. Readership should be tracked to determine impact for work involved.

Each issue might include 2 activity groups, 2 paragraphs, 2 photos. Dave will get an email out requesting this of the chairs and may also bring the idea to the January planning meeting.

No decision was reached about whether to solicit advertising again for newsletter.

- **Annual Summit information**

Dave noted the summit is on January 28-29th in Norwood, Mass, with no cost to EC members. Sign up is required by December 31st. An overnight option is available at each person's own cost.

7:55pm OLD BUSINESS

Action Item (date created) Deb, Mike, Steve (4/16): [Dave: not discussed?]

Photo workshop -open -sometime in 2017: Tabled

ROUND TABLE

Joe: Looking for improved roll out of outdoors.org web site updates. Chapter dashboards will be part of the newest update. It should be released this month and is already on Summit. Migration of the

chapter web sites is postponed to Q1 2017 through Q1 2018. The Potomac Chapter has already converted.

Gina: Each chapter chair was supposed to work with Peter to update their web pages. The new site has more dark green elements that reflect the AMC green.

Karen: 3rd Wednesday social and the holiday party would benefit from EC members attending.

Alex: The first email blast has been sent.

Zenya: Plans the newsletter to be shorter and image driven.

Ingrid: Will work with Dave to come up with family ideas.

Pat L: Sent an email about alpaca wear from a farm in Rutland. If you mention Pat's and Steph Keimig's names you get a 10% discount.

Kim: The Midstate Trail will submit an endowment request to meet the new chainsaw training and safety requirements.

Barb: The Holiday party is at a new location, with about 50 attendees possible. Most EC members have signed up. Parking is in the rear at a school and in a lot. BYOB. Timing is 7-11. Second, the bunk house has been rented out as usual.

Jonathan: 100 Year planning kicked off. Ideas welcome. They are proposing small events leading up to the big event.

Christina: YM is kicking off winter with a lot of hiking events, plus a holiday event at Armsby Abby.

Steve Crowe: One of the Club's trails staff is leaving. New trails staff will be sought.

Food volunteer for January 25th: Bruce Wester; Dave for planning meeting January 8th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm