

**Worcester Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
June 29, 2016**

Attendees: Dave Cole, Joe Massery, Tim Loftus, Sharon Whalen, Pat Lambert, Steve Ciras, Steve Crowe, Michele Simoneau, John Grote, Christina Ferretti, Gina Shea, David Elliott, Fred Mezynski, Jean Sifleet, Kim Beauchemin, Deb Herlihy, Mike Foley, Kim Simpson, Sue Leo-Johnson, and guests Jonathan DiRodi and Alex Molnar.

Pre-Meeting BBQ

Official meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Dave Cole presiding.

NORMAL BUSINESS

- Secretary's Report (Tim L.):
The May 25, 2016 ExCom Meeting Minutes: approved.

- Treasurer's Report (Jose S.):
The May 2016 Treasurer's Report: approved.

- Endowment Proposals Review and Approval (Pat L.):
There were no Endowment Proposals submitted for review or approval.

- Volunteer of the Month (Joe M.):

There were eight nominees for June 2016:

1. Zenya Molnar, nominated by David Elliot, for her hard work as cheerleader and registrar for beginner and YM-orientated paddling events in June.
2. Mike Jones, nominated by Sharon Foster and Charlie Arsenault, for just completing his 20th year volunteering at MLS this month.
3. Renee Pittelli, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for volunteering time, passion, and sleep to be a volunteer instructor for MLS.
4. Neil Schutzman, nominated by Bill Zahavi, for taking on the leadership role on Andy W's anniversary hike up Mt. Washington.
5. Andy Wojcikowski, nominated by Bill Zahavi, for organizing and co-leading his amazing hike up Mt. Washington.
6. Mary O'Loughlin, nominated by Mike Foley, for volunteering at several Adopt-A-Trail events, and not being afraid to get her hands dirty and helping with co-leading and sweeping.
7. Steve "Vitty" Ciras, nominated by Steve Ciras, for his work on the Henderson Brook Trail.
8. Pete Roderick, nominated by Steve Ciras, for his support of Worcester's interest in the Maine Woods and his active participation in the maintenance of the Phoenix Shelter and Henderson Brook Trail.

JUNE WINNER:

Denny LaForce, nominated in March by Andy Wojcikowski, for his tireless support of cycling and cycle touring activities, including the Chapter's annual cycle touring workshop.

NEW BUSINESS

- Repair Our Website – Round 1 – Hiking Activity Links (Team):

The main points of the general discussion (including emails from Pat, Charlie, and Joe) for updating the AMCWorcester.org website:

- Replace names and personal emails of contacts listed with aliases.

- Open links as a new tab/window.

- Remove artifacts that are >2-years-old.

- Remove general information that can be "advertised" elsewhere, such as the "Leaders Needed" section and the "100 Mile Patch" section.

On the administration of these changes, we agreed that the Activity Chair will make the final decision on what is acceptable and will consolidate the changed. The Activity Chair will also initiate the changes through the webmaster.

- Families' Activities in the warm season and how we can help (Dave/Sue):

Ideas generated:

- Outdoor climbing. John Grote to help organize.

- Paddle. David Elliott to help organize.

- Family hike at the Andre Institute of Art and Sculpture Park in Brookline, NH (Sue).

- Arboretum hike and fire pit at Clark University.

- Kayaking, canoeing, etc. at a Greater Worcester Land Trust site. Mike F. to help.

Sue will work with each activity chair on picking a date for each Families' Activity.

- Leadership Appreciation Event (group discussion):

A subcommittee formed of Deb H., Steve Ciras, and Pat L to start organizing the event. This may be funded in whole, or in part, from money left over from WFR, CPR, etc., training programs.

- Update from Nominating Committee (Charlie):

Charlie reported that the following volunteers will be vacating their current positions:

Tim – Secretary, Sharon – Membership, Kim B. – Programs, Nancy C. – Communications, Steve Ciras – Conservation, and Sue L-J – Families.

The following volunteers have been nominated for:

Steve Ciras – At Large role, specifically chairing the 100th Anniversary Committee. Kim B. – Conservation, Jonathan DiRodi – Special Assistant to the Conservation Chair, Michele will also be on the 100th Anniversary Committee.

The following positions still need a nominee:

Families Chair, Communication Chair, Membership Chair, Programs Chair, and Secretary.

- Chapter's Reimbursement Policy Report (Joe and subcommittee):

The Reimbursement Policy was revamped to be “more conservative but more flexible.” Key updates include:

1. Reimbursement amounts for ExComm members and Past Chairs for the Annual Meeting will be determined as part of the annual budgeting process.
2. ExComm members who are required to participate in an event will be reimbursed. Non ExComm members who are required to participate will be eligible for the same reimbursement.
3. Transportation costs will not be reimbursed unless specifically approved by ExComm prior to the event.
4. Leadership training offered will be reimbursed at 100% of the lower of the Worcester rate or the actual cost.
5. Skills Training and Workshops that are activity-specific that promote technical skills, but NOT leadership skills and knowledge will be reimbursed at 50% of the lower of the Worcester rate or the actual cost for active chapter leaders.

Further details can be found on the posted AMC Worcester Chapter General Reimbursement Guidelines.

- Using Reserve Funds (Charlie/Dave):

- A. To augment resources for Annual Meeting.

- Possible sources of funding discussed:

- Opportunity Fund

- Reserve Fund

- Money from underspent budgeted items

- Dave Cole suggested that we look at budget in September to determine the best sources of funding for the Annual Meeting.

- B. To Possibly Expedite the timing of the Migrations of Chapter Websites, Request from Joy Street.

- Currently the proposed AMC website has 85-100 items that need to be addressed, creating a 6-8 month backlog before full migration to this site can take place. AMC Joy St. is requesting that Worcester (and other chapters) contribute funds to help pay for an interim contractor to expedite this project. The total estimated funds will amount to \$40,000 with a goal of 2017 for full website migration.

- Dave Cole to contact Faith Salter of AMC Joy St. to clarify some of Worcester Chapter’s concerns:

- Availability of the Chapters’ Reserve to fund this request?
 - Availability of the Tolman Fund to fund this request?
 - If the Worcester Chapter donates now, will we be reimbursed in 2017?
 - How much money will we be asked to contribute?

- If this issue needs to be discussed before the next ExComm meeting (September 28), then Dave Cole will plan a conference call this summer.

- Lenny Poulin's AMC kayaks and his offer to trade (David Elliott):

In updating the inventory for the Worcester AMC, it was discovered that we have four old kayaks which are in the possession of Lenny Poulin. Three of these are for whitewater use and one is for general use. Lenny requested that he keep one of these boats for personal use while the others are returned to the club.

David Elliott reported that the whitewater kayaks are of an older design that need new skirts and paddles. The other one is in fragile condition. The value of these boats is minimal and not worth purchasing skirts and paddles. David added that we need recreational kayaks as that is where the club's interests lies.

After general discussion on this matter: Lenny Poulin can have the kayak he wants and we will sell the other three for whatever we can get for them. David Elliot will manage this project to completion. In the meantime, storage of these three boats will be on Ken Pickren's property.

OLD BUSINESS

Action Items:

- Annual Meeting (Sharon W.):

Sharon reported the budget for this year's Annual Meeting will stay at the same level as last year (and will still include the funding for ExComm member tickets). Also, this year's speaker will not charge a fee.

Discussion on the method of posting the 2017 ExComm nominees. Pat stated that posting the slate can be to the website to fulfill the bylaw rather than posting as part of the Annual Meeting invitation mailing.

Annual Meeting invitations will be mailed to members four to six weeks prior to the Meeting.

ExComm group photo shoot.

Food for the September meeting: David Elliott

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 pm