

**Worcester Chapter Executive Committee Meeting  
October 26, 2016**

**Attendees:** Dave Cole, Joe Massery, Charlie Arsenault, Tim Loftus, Sharon Whalen, Pat Lambert, Steve Ciras, Steve Crowe, Michele Simoneau, Christina Ferretti, John Grote, Gina Shea, David Elliott, Fred Mezynski, Deb Herlihy, Mike Foley, Kim Simpson, Bruce Wester, Barbara Dyer, Jose Schroen, Bruce Wester, Kim Beauchemin, Susan Leo-Johnson, Kim Simpson, and guests Karen Maki, Pat Flanagan, Ingrid Molnar, Zenya Molnar and Jonathan DiRodi.

Official meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Dave Cole presiding.

**NORMAL BUSINESS**

- Secretary's Report (Tim L.):

The September Secretary's Report was approved with the following correction:

Under the Round Table (Pat L): Replace "Wants to write an article, as part of the *On the Road with the Endowment Chair* series, about Steve Crowe's Mt. Washington trip. Dave Cole has already written this and will send to Pat," with "Requested an article to be written as part of the *On the Road with the Endowment Chair* series, about Steve Crowe's Mt Washington trip. Dave Cole has already written this and provided it to Nancy Cahn."

- Treasurer's Report (Jose S.):

The October Treasurer's Report was approved with the following amendment:

The formula in the budget spreadsheet for the total available endowment income will be corrected to reflect the actual available. Jose will follow-up with the Club to see whether or not the Tolman Fund was included with the Endowment Fund disbursement.

Further discussion from the Treasurer included:

Checking on liability insurance.

Joe suggested that any changes made to a line item (money brought in from an activity and added to line item amount, for example), be broken out in print form rather than embedded in the spreadsheet formula. Jose to start this in next year's budget.

Jose also stated that there is enough money in the budget to cover the expected expenses of the Annual Meeting.

- Endowment Proposals Review and Approval (Pat L.):

The Endowment Proposal, as outlined below, was approved.

This Endowment Proposal, requested by Steve Crowe of the Worcester Chapter Trails Committee and Gary Gresh from AMC's Major Gifts department, is for the Worcester AMC to match up to \$10,000 if AMC raises a minimum of \$10,000 toward the renovation of Camp Didge in New Hampshire. If the minimum is matched, the Worcester Chapter will provide \$5000 in either 2016 or 2017 and pledge the other \$5000 for the following year.

After some discussion and clarification, AMC is expected to fundraise from the other chapters (except Boston, which is providing \$20,000 to the renovations) to meet the \$10,000 challenge. AMC has until September 30, 2017 to raise the minimum funding to meet our challenge.

- Volunteer of the Month (Joe M.):

There were six nominees for October 2016:

1. Jon DiRodi, nominated by Pat Lambert, for being active in the 20/30s group, stepping up to become the Programs Chair, and actively engaged in becoming a leader.
2. Stephanie Krzyzewski, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for serving on the Nominating Committee.
3. Janice Melchiorre, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for serving on the Nominating Committee.
4. Andy Wojcikowski, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for serving on the Nominating Committee.
5. Dan Foster, nominated by Stephanie Krzyzewski, for teaching a map/compass class for the 20/30s and for being an excellent teacher.
6. Debi Garlick, nominated by Pat Flanagan, for her work with the Winter Hiking Workshop and many other programs. Her AMC activities have made a difference in people's lives.

#### OCTOBER WINNER:

Verne Hebard, nominated by Steve Crowe, for his two days of work on the Pine Hill Trail in November (Mid-State Trail maintainer).

- Volunteer of the Year (Joe M.):

Walt Lazarz (drawn from the pool of the 12 monthly winners).

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Repair of our Website Round 3 – Skiing and final review of Paddling (Jean Silfleet/David Elliott):  
Jean is out of the country. Will report on recommended changes at the December ExComm meeting.

David Elliott will report on recommended changes at the December ExComm meeting.

- Mentoring Update for new executive committee members (Joe):

Joe reported that the mentoring program for the new executive committee members is going well. The following is a list of the open executive committee position, the nominee for that position, and in parentheses, the current executive committee member/mentor:

Secretary: Pat Flanagan (Tim Loftus)

Communications: Alex and Zenya Molnar (Nancy Cahn)

Families: Ingrid Molnar (Susan Leo-Johnson)

Membership: Karen Maki (Sharon Whalen)

Programs: Jonathan Dirodi (Kim Beauchemin)

- Potential creation of a Taskforce to present budget vote to executive committee:

Dave Cole presented to the ExComm what the New Hampshire chapter does to streamline their budget process and recommended that we evaluate their plan and adopt those portions of it that will benefit the Worcester chapter budget process. In the NH process, a task force creates a yearly budget based on past histories with some changes as recommended by each activity chair, and getting

supplemental operation funding from the Endowment Committee as a one-lump sum. This then creates a 10 minute process for approval at the monthly ExComm meeting (rather than the extended discussions over several meetings that we currently have).

After discussion, a motion was made, and approved, to create a Task Force made up of Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer), Past Chair, Leadership Chair, and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair to review the NH plan in detail and to present a budget recommendation to the ExComm at the next meeting.

- Annual Meeting Update (Dave Cole, Sharon W., team):

Annual Meeting plans in good shape.

Sharon stated that some roles need to be filled (staffing raffle table, cleaning up, etc.).

Historically obtaining help has never been a problem and is confident that these roles will be filled as needed.

For those who obtained gift certificates, they can be brought early to the meeting.

Charlie requested that all presenters for the Annual Meeting send him his slide show so that it can be beta tested beforehand.

Dave Cole reported that the Annual Report is coming together well and that there will be two copies of the Report for each table at the Annual Meeting. The Report will also be posted on the Worcester AMC website.

Dave also clarified a question as to whether the Chapter will cover the Annual Meeting cost of any subcommittee members who are not part of the ExComm. Their cost will not be covered by the Worcester Chapter.

Barbara D. will post a call on social media for a volunteer to photograph the events and jollification of the Annual Meeting.

- Appie of the Year (Dave Cole):

This award is given to a person who has gone over and above through multiple years to make the Worcester Chapter great. Nominees are:

Bruce Wester, nominated by Fred Mezynski, Christine Fogarty, Pat Fanjoy, Mike Foley, Jose Schroen, and Charlie Arsenault for his leadership, work and dedication on successfully bringing biking activities to the forefront for the Worcester Chapter.

Andy Wojcikowski, nominated by Pat Lambert for his work as a past Chapter Chair, his active leadership, and his positive and sage advice.

Joe Massery, nominated by Dirk Flachland, Barbara Dyer, and Walt Lazarz, for his leadership and inspiration, serving on the ExComm and for organizing the Spring Picnic.

Sharon Whalen, nominated by Jean Langely and Charlie Arsenault for her hard work, organizational skills, leadership skills and serving enthusiastically as the Membership Chair.

Walt Lazarz, nominated by Joe Massery, for being one of the most active and involved leaders.

Stephanie Keimig, nominated by Ed Bazakian, for her outstanding workshops, leadership, being an excellent communicator and for sharing her vast knowledge.

Charlie Arsenault, nominated by Steve Crowe and Steve Ciras, for bringing in many members through his leadership, being a mentor to members, his dedication to the AMC, and his basic god-like status.

A ballot vote was taken and collected by Dave Cole. The Appie of the Year will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

- Reports from the Fall Gathering (Attendees):

Charlie Arsenault: Attended the AMC Membership meeting. New system rolling out in March - customer resource management system. Upcoming options include auto renewal with credit card and a monthly payment option. Also, AMC has a full-paid Survey Monkey account and the Worcester chapter has access to this. Will be able to do more with this than the free version.

Kim Beauchemin: Attended the Outdoor Leadership and Development Committee meeting. Chris Fogarty will be taking the helm of this committee. Center for Outdoor Learning and Leadership is almost ready to use. Will be a good reference for us.

Joe Massery and Dave Cole: Attended the Chapters Committee meeting. Concerning the updating of the website, the Potomac Chapter was the first to volunteer for the conversion. The process has been filled with many, many problems and needs a lot of attention. The committee sent a message to the AMC board with a number of concerns about getting the website issues under control. A subcommittee was formed to make recommendations on resolving the top three issues (at the time of the meeting these had not yet been determined) with a response time of six months to report back to the AMC board.

Steve Ciras, Jose Schoen, and Kim Beauchemin: Rhode Island has some great conservation areas. All were impressed with the hiking and other activities offered at the Fall Gathering.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Charlie A.: Thanked ExComm members who are finishing up their term this year for all their work and dedication.

Zenya M.: Happy to be serving on the 2017 ExComm.

Ingrid M.: Thanked the ExComm for the invitation to participate as a committee chair on the 2017 ExComm.

Christina F.: The 20/30s had another great social. Many members of the group are co-leading events and the leadership roles are increasing.

Steve Crowe (El Gran Cuervo Blanco): From the last Trails meeting at the Greater Worcester Land Trust, property was acquired at Asnebumskit Hill. Trails will be worked on. Also, November 5 and 6 will be work days on the Pine Hill Trail, Mt. Wachusett.

Sharon W.: The Meet-Up page monthly pot luck suppers needs editing (Mike Foley to do). Also requested that someone take on the task of updating the Meet-Up page.

Jon D.: The Third Wednesday group had requested a representative from the 20/30s group to help recruit new members. Jon volunteered to do this since he regularly attends this monthly event anyway.

Gina S.: Needs the banners for the Winter Workshop.

Kim B.: April 8<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date for the Backpacking Workshop. The potential site, in Stowe, can hold more people for this popular event than sites available in the past.

Deb H.: Will post by October 30<sup>th</sup> the dates for the Worcester Chapter leadership and WFA training. Deb thanked the organizers for their work with the recent Leadership Appreciation event.

Pat L.: Gave a general reminder to encourage leaders to turn in their trip paperwork and waivers, and to also clearly list the co-leader(s) so they can get credit for co-leading. Pat is also mentoring several people on their co-leads.

Steve Ciras: Thanked Deb H. for a fabulous job organizing and cooking at the Leadership Appreciation event. Also thanked Michele S. for providing interesting information at the Leadership Appreciation event on the early history of AMC in Worcester.

Joe M.: Provided some fliers he had obtained from the Fall Gathering on some upcoming diversity and equity training as well as some fliers on the upcoming 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit.

Food for the September meeting: Karen Maki

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm