

AMC Worcester Chapter
Executive Committee Meeting - Minutes: June 26, 2019

Boylston Historical Society: 7 Central Street, Boylston, Mass.

Attending:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Joe Massery | Kim Beauchemin | Jose Schroen | Sue Serra (minutes) |
| Janice Melchiorre | Zenya Molnar | Alexandra Molnar | Jon DiRodi |
| Bill Zahavi | Ingrid Molnar | Debi Garlick | Paul Glazebrook |
| Jean Langley | Kim Simpson | David Elliott | Dave Cole |
| Don Hoffses | Lisa Buckley | John Grote | Fred Mezynski |
| Stephen Crowe | Mike Morin | Michele Simoneau | |

[6:30 PM]

Meeting was called to order

Joe Massery presiding

[6:32]

Food for September EC meeting

Volunteer for food is [Ingrid]

REGULAR BUSINESS

[6:35PM]

April Meeting Minutes (Sue)

Following updates were made:

- Updated Janice's name and statement in round-table section to read "(Janice) Bike Touring workshop is on May 4th; about 15 registered so far; being held at the new visitor center in Worcester"
- Removed Joe's round table statement regarding DB glitch issue
- Misc typos

April Minutes APPROVED with above changes

May Meeting Minutes (Sue)

Following updates were made:

- Updated all Action Items to be current
- Under Old Business, TrailsFest, it stated the AMC Banner was missing, but it was the Tablecloth (which has since been found)
- Corrected “chaapter” typo

May Minutes APPROVED with above changes

[6:38 PM]

May Treasurer’s Report (Jose)

- No comments received

May Treasury Report ACCEPTED

[6:40 PM]

Volunteer of the Month (Kim B)

June Nominations (8):

- Bill Caulway nominated by Joe Massery
He displayed his backpacking gear at TrailsFest and talked at length about tick disease prevention – it was a big hit.
- Rick Chin nominated by Walt Lazarz
He led the 13 Falls, Owls Head backpack with me and did an outstanding job. He has a very nice way with participants.
- Dave Elliot (NA) nominated by Faith Salter
For bringing boats, PFDs, and paddles so that our Family Friendly Paddle the Ponds of Ayer series could include people who no longer have boats, or who do not own boats. He kindly waived the rental fee for participants to remove cost as a barrier to participation. He was also an amazing co-leader. He led part of the group on an adventure paddle into the wetlands, and when we got locked into the park by the Town, he patiently helped everyone lift their boats over the fence. After all of that, he came again for the next paddle with all the right gear, and helped people get set up for launch in the AMC boats. These paddles went a lot better because David was there. I hope I can convince him to join my next paddle in the series which has a very tricky put-in.
- Jim Madden nominated by Joe Massery
For filling in at the last minute as my co-leader on my June Inner Backpacker trip in the Berkshires.

- Chris Fogarty nominated by Joe Massery
For organizing and leading an outstanding Inner Backpacker trip on Sandy Neck Beach.
- Walt Lazarz nominated by Ingrid Molnar
For all of his efforts in helping to plan and co-lead the Families Geo-Caching hike at TrailsFest that drew an overwhelming 21 participants.
- Emerson Grant nominated by John Grote
For helping with the rock climbing at Redemption rock for the TrailsFest on Saturday June 1.
- Bill Brooke (Maine Chapter) nominated by John Grote
For helping with the trail work on the Henderson Brook trail on Saturday June 22.
(Phoenix shelter trip)

June VOM winner: DIRK FLATCHBART

Nominated by Kim Beauchemin for his enthusiasm and support in helping and teaching at the Intro to Backpacking Workshop.

[6:50 PM]

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Status Report (Dave C.)

Active Nominating Committee met earlier this week; we have a few roles to fill:

- Secretary
- Membership Chair
- Social Chair
- Program Chair—put emphasis on helping to create programs, help the Social Chair, and help create educational programs
- Endowment Chair—suggested we may want a new board position called Finance Chair (to work on budget process) separate from Treasurer

(Michele) No more Endowment Committee?

(Joe) There would still be an Endowment Committee. The Finance Chair would be responsible for the Endowment Committee and process, as well as budgeting process

(Mike) So, a more formalized role for Finance Committee budget process?

(Kim) Also ensure knowledge sharing, in order to help communicate understanding of what can be a confusing process of budget and endowment

(Dave) We'd add a position but also take a position away

(Bill) So we'd still have the Endowment Committee?

(Joe) Yes, we need to have someone review and solicit requests

(Mike) Assumption is on Endowment side, we are changing the name, and on the budget side we are adding a more formal leadership position

(David) Need to be mindful of how we structure; the process was out of control, so we created a Finance Committee to take budget deliberations offline—observed this didn't always go smoothly in the past—we're formally institutionalizing process that we kicked in 3yrs ago to not waste time. I'm not objecting, just pointing out.

(Joe) Anyone have thoughts on what this would mean for the endowment process?

(Bill) My question is that, as Endowment requests come in (we basically have 3 that we have been dealing with each year), Finance can then request Endowment to review and comment; don't need another leadership position, just need a way to manage

(Dave) Once Finance Committee is established, they will also work on Endowment; Finance is busy December through February

(Bill) There's already procedure in place for when requests are due to come in and when they get approved; the time in between will be for Endowment to review requests

(Michele) I don't want to eliminate Endowment Committee, it was born for a reason

(Joe) That's not what we are doing—we'll still have the committee, just not a chair. Does head of Finance become Endowment Chair?

(Mike) We could call it Finance Chair with Budget Committee and the Endowment Committee

(Steve) You need the Finance Chair to be the leader of the Endowment Committee; by combining them we are adding more consistency

(Joe) Finance Chair would be responsible for budget and leading Endowment Committee; so, the Endowment Committee wouldn't change except its leader would now be the Finance Chair

(Ingrid) What if there's a conflict? What if Endowment Committee disagrees with Finance Chair?

(Alex) We vote on requests as committee

(Michele) The Endowment committee votes whether to submit request, not whether to approve

After long discussion it was agreed upon to eliminate the Endowment Chair and create a Finance Chair.

Mike M. moved, and was seconded, for the coming committee 2020 fiscal year to eliminate the position of Endowment Chair and to create a new position of Finance Chair, who's role is to lead both the Budget and Endowment Committees.

Unanimously APPROVED

Send any chair suggestions/nominations to Dave C. and he will vet them out.

[7:00]

Finance Committee Mid-Year Report (Jose, Joe)

(Joe) I raised the question of who is eligible for reimbursement for Fall Gathering; answer is Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, and OLDC Chair

(Joe) State of current finance relative to budget:

- Income stream is on plan
- We are short because haven't received all income yet (not due)

(Jose) We have a shortage of cashflow due to timing

(Joe) Expense is way under plan (see treasury report)

(Joe) I will send a request for what spending will be; how you plan to spend; have any ideas on how to spend excess funds; may have unspent funds this year and will be taken into account next year; price we pay is we don't get things done we thought were worthwhile; if we have a short fall we dip into endowment and this money could be used for other things (outreach, etc.); it's important we budget well

(David E.) I would rather someone not spend than say "I should spend the money or Joe will take away next year"

(Joe) If you under budget and then discover midyear you need more, come to the Executive Committee and request—we almost always find budget

(Joe) There's a requirement from the club that all chapters must manage funds/financial operations, not only of chapter, but their committees For us, this means that the Midstate Trail Committee and the Chapter need to get together and come up with a plan to manage funds in a way that satisfied the requirements.

(Kim S.) The club needs to tell us what they want

(Joe) I will follow up with you (Kim S., Steve Crowe, Don H.)

(Jose) We had a treasurers meeting because new regulations came out; they need to give training, etc.; they're working on it

[7:18]

Chapter Leadership Guidelines Doc – Status and Plan (Paul)

Chapter Leadership Guidelines are DONE

(Paul) We formed a committee (Janice, Neil, Debi); all had input and there were a number of iterations; we are at the point now where we are using them; I'm not sure if we're required to approval/vote on them; they are also intended to be shared with potential leaders, so they know what is expected of them

After significant discussion, there was agreement that the document needed another round of inputs, and that wanted to bring the next version to a vote by the EC.

(Joe) We're not going to review or edit now; send comments to Paul; can deliberate and get all in agreement by Sept 1

(Paul) comments in by Aug 15, out Sept 1, vote Sept 25th

[7:33]

Planning Team Read-out: Conservation/Partnerships (including TrailsFest recap)
(Steve, Shalin)

Our group spent time discussing partnerships with the GWLT, colleges and the Eagle Scout Candidate that Dave Cole invited.

Change is constant with College groups. Greg Doerschler is the GWLT Volunteer working with colleges. Transportation is the key to getting college students together.

We discussed a partnership for the City of Worcester's Earth Day Clean-up on April 27th. A conflict developed with the DCR's Park Serve Day and our volunteers went to Wachusett.

We talked about continuing the conversation about Wildness and Wilderness Ethics with the Waterman Fund and their books. Upcoming events are the Alpine Stewardship Gathering Oct 25-27 and a program at Plymouth College.

We talked about a TrailsFest event and although Shalin was not part of this Group he stepped up develop a team that to produce an extraordinary signature event.

- This event took around 1000 volunteer hours to produced. I estimate that Shalin put in 200-300 hours, I had about 100. 20 other committee members, plus trip leaders and volunteers for the day of the event.
- Now we need to examine what went right, what went wrong and what we could do better.
- Shalin couldn't be here due to job but sent email saying he is happy to lead TrailsFest Committee for 2020

Looking ahead to 2020 we need to do a better job of working all year. Last year I worked by myself to get some things in place before our committee meetings started. We were still too late as other organizations had already made plans for NTD. Shalin did an excellent job of getting feedback from those involved to help with planning for next year.

Volunteers Needed this Fall:

- TrailsFest Chair: likely to be Shalin again, should delegate more of the tasks to lighten the load for future chairs.
- Coordinator for Land Trust Partners and other Outdoor Groups
- Coordinator for Commercial Sponsors Alex Molnar did some of this as AMC Staff. Consider Subaru that gets people outside, Banks and Corporations.
- Site Coordinator to work with Wachusett Staff.
- Activities Coordinator need for next Spring

Consider other events with Wachusett Ski area and REI. Last Year REI hosted a 'Pray for Snow' event at Wachusett in December. Not sure how their New Hampshire store will affect the location this year.

All want to have this event next year

(Mike) At Nominating Committee meeting when we were talking about Programs Chair, we discussed Vice Chair being responsible for Trails day instead of picnic, and then Programs doing other things

(David) Relationship good with Wachusett going forward?

(Steve) Yes. Jeff had mentioned when we first met 2 years ago, he had interest in 'every kid outdoors'; would like to get to the point where we can fundraise at TrailsFest to replace the \$5,000 we get from Endowment for YOP; could do more with REI "pray for snow"; going forward would like to see Shalin break up job more; coordinator for land trust and other groups (e.g. commercial sponsors)

(Joe) Did Shalin publish results of survey? Want to make sure they got out.

(Steve C) Yes

[7:43 PM]

OLD BUSINESS

Action Items (Joe)

- 2019 Nominating Committee: Plan, schedule, members. [Dave C] Planned for June. OPEN
- Reconvene Chapter Finance Committee in April for mid-year budget/expense review [Joe] OPEN
- Determine if additional Leader Training or WFA sessions are needed; budget requirements. [Paul, Shalin] DONE
 - In years past, 2nd session for WFA had low turnout. For LT, there are offerings by other chapters that would be more cost-effective for us.
- Propose or clarify Chapter's requirements for leaders taking WFA; propose reimbursement policy. [Paul, Jose] DONE
 - Reimburse direct expenses; continuation of existing process
- Post Dog Policy and scenarios on Chapter website. DONE

[7:50 PM]

Round table (All)

- (Kim B) I'd like to thank Joe for awesome food
- (Mike) I'd like to thank Alex & Zenya for saving our BBQ; also, for getting last sandwich out of Greek food truck at TrailsFest
- (Dave C) Jose, thank you and search committee
- (Kim S) Thank you to Dave for getting this location; after months of not hearing Ware River Watershed called a meeting and it couldn't have gone better; ultra-marathon still on (in process of meeting with them), don't want them to run on sections where it's someone's backyard; still a long way to go... found a land owner this week we didn't know we had (logging near trail); GWLT may want to keep them off trail areas near route 20; don't want to overburden
- (Paul) Thanks to everyone, Debi, Janice, Neil and David, for helping with leadership guidelines; decided not to do fall WFA due to financial situation and attendance, but there are 4 offered by club through end of year
- (Jose) Thanks to Debi and Walt for helping me finish my 48; Treasury wise, will be making payment in August for Dodge and YOP
 - (Jose) Jeff Mays running Connecticut River trip; submitted budget of what to charge participants and what to payout, and if happens the way he estimates, there will be surplus that he wants to submit
 - (Joe) First, he wants advance; a lot of tentacles to decision; need to discuss, it goes against the budget strategy/procedure we've been using
 - (Ingrid) I was going to offer budget from Families, but haven't read what it is
 - (Joe) I don't want to put him in situation where he is in financial risk; will follow-up and get resolved; want trip to be successful
- (Debi) Jose made her 48, it was cold/wet and zero view; thanks to Walt for his GPS—the Cohos trail not well blazed; there was a backpack to 13 Falls/Owl's Head and was discovered that because the 'bushwhack' trail is not an official trail, and as an AMC club we cannot lead hikes on that trail; Colin Novick is going to start doing local hikes on GWLT start July 10th and hopefully he can get some local hikes going
- (Jon) Thanks to Joe for stepping in as leader; and to Steve for continued work on Pine Hill
- (Steve) Goal is to get that done before I'm 70; thanks to the 6 regulars that come out and help with that project; extraordinary safety effort; trying to put together trip for Sunday to work on Pine Hill
- (Jon D) Thanks to Shalin for Trails Day
- (Bill) Thanks to Endowment for supporting me this year—been a lot of fun, and thanks for the food
- (Fred) Thanks to Executive Committee for supporting 3rd Wednesday—Ingrid for the good food and always being there, Joe for always being there first, Dave C for

always supporting me; Jean for always doing membership; Jon, Michele and Steve for always being there, and Bill Z for bringing good drink

- (Ingrid) Thanks to everyone generally for the camaraderie; and thanks to Debi G for great support in communications with the Boston Families Chapter; Boston looking for Families Chair; continuing to get emails from Jeanne Blauner—all-inclusive with all of us
- (David) Thanks to everyone club-wide—so many doing so much hard work; value inter-chapter thing; moving in direction of being more inclusive
- (Alex) Thanks to Dave C and Steve for help organizing and co-leading Young Member trip; thanks to everybody in advance for submitting articles for Newsletter, deadline is July 20
- (Zenya) Thanks to Dave C for heading up the Nominating Committee
- (Joe) Thanks to Finance Committee, Kim, Steve, Bill, Jose; and thanks to Dave C for the Nominating Committee; thanks to those who helped with Henderson Brook trail work, small but mighty crew got things done and had great time; met people from Maine Chapter doing volunteer trail work and helped others

[8:12 PM]

Meeting Adjourned