

AMC Worcester Chapter

To foster the protection, enjoyment and understanding of the outdoors.

\Minutes: Annual Business Meeting and Executive Committee Meeting November 30, 2022
This meeting was hybrid – both in-person and remote via Zoom

★ Notes from the Award Presentations at November 10, 2022 Social Meeting follow the Meeting Minutes

6:32pm – Meeting called to order and Regular business

In Attendance:

Christine Pignatiello	Wendy Dziemian	Kim Beauchemin	Alex Molnar
Zenya Molnar	Christine Crepeault	Jose Schroen	Ginny Bixler (minutes)
Gaurav Dutta	Ingrid Molnar	Eric Harris	Carol Warren
Dave Elliot	Stephen Crowe	Vanessa Butler	Erin Doolittle
Kathryn Acciari	Cheri Mitchell	Ladda Kosaketh	Charlie Arsenault (AMC)
Joe Massery	Ruth Langh	Walt Lazarz	Meighan Matthews (AMC)
Jason Porter (member)	Nathanael Lopes (guest)	Lina Nguyen (guest)	

- **Welcome and review of online etiquette**
- **Review of Agenda**
- **Review/accept minutes of October EC meeting** – accepted with the following corrections:
 - 1) Ruth Langh left off Attendance
 - 2) Order of August and September Volunteers of the month corrected
 - 3) First item under Chapter Chair Meeting corrected to read – Outdoor Connector will replace the Activity Database
 - 4) Added to Mike Peckar’s announcement: The Midstate Trail Committee will also have an exhibit table with Steve Crowe (Trails Committee).
- **Review of Treasurer’s Report** – Jose sent out. No changes or concerns noted.
- **Volunteer of the Month for November** – Dave Laska nominated by Joe Massery for providing musical entertainment at the Annual Mtg Social on very short notice.

Also Nominated:

- Will Desrosiers nominated by Deb Garlic for mentored Joe Ciras as local hike leader allowing Joe to complete qualifications to become local hike leader
- Donald Davies nominated by Joe Massery and Walt Lazarz for organized Chapter’s Winter Hiking Workshop
- Dave Kulpa nominated by Joe Massery for being a presenter at Winter Hiking Workshop

Honorable Mentions: Chris Pignatiello, Wendy Dziemian, Debi Garlick, and Kim Beauchemin, – all nominated by Joe Massery for presenting at Winter Hiking Workshop

Special Note: Christine Crepeault ran 23 hikes from last November to this November.

6:40pm – Presentation by Chuck Johnston, Chief Financial Officer of AMC

- Thanked all members and volunteers. Worcester Chapter has great spirit and comradery.
- Chuck announced the appointment of the new CEO, Nicole Zussman, who will be starting next week but will be official January, 2023.
- AMC finances looking strong for next year with strong bookings for next year.

- Conservation Update- over 100,000 contiguous acres of forestland and waterways permanently protected in Maine with the addition of the 27K acres of Pleasant River Camp Waters project. The AMC is looking to add more acres.
- Money coming into state for protecting forest and trail maintenance.
- AMC getting qualified and meeting requirements to host AmeriCorps in New Hampshire and Massachusetts to help with trails.
- AMC continuing to work on and improve accessibility.
- DEI work including training and resource and language guides.
- Outdoor Connector will replace Activity Database and will be major technological advance for AMC.
- Annual Summit, February 4, 2023 will be in person in Norwood.
- AMC 150 - 10-year vision for AMC
- Special thanks to Worcester AMC for working with Educators Outdoors and the Worcester Gear Shed; helping to fund Primary Source, DEI Speaker Series, and Maine Fish Habitat and for its support of many projects that go beyond the Worcester area, including maintaining Henderson Brook Trail, Phoenix Shelter and the Horseshoe Pond Shelter. Also, for the Winter Hiking Workshops and the Backpacking Workshops.
- Worcester AMC is a great model for the other chapters.

7:16 NEW BUSINESS

- **Election of new members - Accepted**
 - Eric Fung – Biking Chair
 - Cheri Mitchell – Family Chair
 - Kathryn Acciari – Membership Chair
 - Ladda Kosaketh – DEI Chair
 - Alex Molar- Outreach Chair

Still openings for Communications Chair and Programs Chair

Thanks to outgoing Chairs – Neil Schutzman, Ingrid Molnar, Erin Doolittle, Gaurav Dutta, Alex Molnar and Jon DiRodi for their work.

- **Registering for Monthly EC Meeting** – Mike Morin not here to address. Will be put on hold but need a way to get a head count of people attending so food can be ordered. Could use Google Forms or ActDB, with a reminder and link to sign up; to go with monthly agenda. Charlie reminded group that Activity Database will soon be replaced with Outdoor Connect.
- **Planning Meeting-** Scheduled for January 21st from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Wendy to check if we can use Auburn Middle School.
- **New Year's Day Welcome to 2023**– Trout Brook Reservation in Holden. Vanessa presented plan for hikes in the morning to be followed by a Potluck around noon with other family activities. She is looking for volunteers for setup, leading hikes and cleanup. Contact Vanessa with questions and to volunteer.
- Christine P. read an invitation to an outdoor recreation announcement being held December 5th at 4:00pm from Kristen Sykes, Director of the Southern New England Conservation Projects and Partnerships with AMC. Members are invited to Wachusett Mountain Ski Area for an announcement of

a new effort to promote and continue the Commonwealth's vibrant outdoor recreation industry and economy. This will feature outdoor recreation businesses and non-profit organizations, outdoor industry trade groups, land management organizations, municipalities and partners. Members are asked to RSVP to Gerben.Scherpbier2@mass.gov with name, # of attendees, and name of organization. Christine will forward information to anyone interested.

7:42 OLD BUSINESS

- **Proposed bylaw change for changing the name of Endowment Committee to the Grant Allocation Committee**– Approved at the Club level but tabled. Will need to notify chapter members of the proposed change prior to next Annual Meeting. Notification about Endowment Committee name change did not go out with information about the next Annual meeting.
- **Sharepoint** - Migrating outdated SharePoint documents into Archive folder. Each Committee Chair notified and encouraged to look at active documents for their committee and, if no longer current, to move to their archive folder.
- **Mid-State Trail** - Tabled. Last month Mike Peckar stated things were moving along fine. Jose reported the Treasurer of MST stated things are fine. They have access to their Chase Bank accounts and information. Christine Crepault will ask Mike Peckar to confirm.
- **Speaker Series** –Erin Doolittle no longer pursuing collaboration with Tower Hill Botanical Garden for a speaking event. Item removed from Action Items.
- **Members access to SharePoint** - Kim to get all members access to SharePoint and to update emails to the Web Master.

7:55 – Kudos/General Announcements

- Erin - 3rd Wednesday program (December 21st) is going to be a Holiday Party with Gear Swap. Bring what you'd like to swap. Any leftover items hopefully will be donated to Gear Shed.
- Jose – Requests for reimbursement need to be in by December 26th in order to be part of the budget for this year.
- Zenya – Thanks to outgoing EC Chairs and welcome to new folks.
- Vanessa – Thanks to volunteers and to Alex and Zenya for stepping in with October Social.
- Meighan – Thanks to Christine P. and all who stepped up to make this meeting happen.
- Kim - Thanks to Christine P. for all the work to make the meeting happen. And to Carol for the Winter Hiking Workshop video.
- Christine C. – Fiscal 2023 budget filed and accepted.
- Charlie – Thanks to everyone. Introduced and thanked Lina Nguyen and Nathanael Lopes from Dynamy John S Laws Academy and Educators Outdoors.
- Nate –(guest) Honored to help with college access program. Great to hear about volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved.
- Lena- (guest) Dynamy has had a tremendous year reconnecting their college assess program with outdoors. Couldn't have done it without the development of the Worcester Gear Shed and the amazing volunteers, (shout out to Wendy). Dynamy serves first generation, low income, multilingual, multicultural students from the community of Worcester.
- Carol – Needs pictures of the new people for the contact sheet on webpage. Encourage people to share ideas for the webpage. She is able to make videos if given pictures.
- Eric – Wished Jon DiRodi good luck. It was nice working with him. Eric is excited to be Conservation Chair.
- Kathryn – Thanks for voting her in.

- Joe – Welcome to new members and thanks to outgoing Chairs. Thanks to Carol for the website changes. Thanks to Dynamy for their great work. Big thanks to Christine P for what it took to get the meeting together.
- Walt - Thanks to the ECOM for making and keeping the chapter the best.
- Jason (member) – Great to be here and see how things work. He would like to be more involved.
- Ginny – Thanks to everybody for helping with her 1st Annual Meeting and to everybody doing all the work for the ECOM.
- Wendy – Thanks to all the people who aren't actually EC members and who came and spent 2 ½ hours with us.
- Christine P.- Thanks to Wendy for her hard work, for the food and the technical help. And to Kim, Joe, Charlie and Faith for helping pull the meeting together.

EC Planning Meeting - January 21, 2023

9:00am to 1:00pm Auburn Middle School?

Next Meeting – January 25, 2023

6:00 - Dinner

6:30pm - Meeting Hybrid-both remote via Zoom and in-person at Auburn Middle School

8:08pm – Adjourn

On November, 10, 2022 the Worcester AMC held its Annual Social. At that time three prestigious awards were presented.

The award for Appie of the year was presented to Walt Lazarz . This is the Chapter's highest recognition - it honors a person who over multiple years has gone above and beyond to help make our Chapter great. Nominations are received from the entire Chapter membership, and **it is** a great honor to be nominated. The winner is chosen by secret ballot of the Executive Committee members. This year's winner was nominated by no fewer than ten different members (most non-EC). Some of the comments from the nominators:

- Walt is such an asset to the Worcester Chapter
- Always trying to improve hikers' abilities
- Humble and patient
- I attended his hikes, backpacks, workshops ... they were great, memorable, enjoyable

The nominees for Appie of the Year were:

- Sharon Whelan
- Walt Lazarz (3 nominations)
- Christine Crepeault (2 nominations)
- Mike Foley
- Don Davies
- Kim Beauchemin
- Walter Nutter

The award for Rookie of the Year was presented to Wendy Dziemian. This is an award given to recognize a Worcester Chapter member who goes above and beyond in their first year in a volunteer role whether that be as a trip leader, ECOM member or leadership training staff. Wendy has exceeded expectations in all of those areas. She started out volunteering on the ECOM as the Secretary; however, when Paul Glazebrook retired, she immediately jumped into the role of Leadership Chair which is one of the more demanding roles. She has also been the point of contact for arranging in-person meetings at the Auburn Middle School and has helped with the

pre-meeting dinner. Outside of the ECOM she has completed her leadership certification. All around, Wendy has been a great addition to the Worcester Chapter's volunteer leadership this year.

The Award for Volunteer of the Year was presented to Emerson Grant. Emerson was among those volunteers most frequently nominated for Volunteer of the Month by club members during the 2021-2022 year. He devoted many hours of personal time and labor for the benefit of the Chapter, including helping with the following projects and tasks:

- Served as overseer of the Wachusett Mountain Adopt-a-Trail Program, which included the monitoring of blowdowns and trail conditions;
- Logged 144 volunteer hours (as of December 2021!), including a 3-day rigging class and 2 days of axe training at AMC Camp Dodge Volunteer Center;
- Assisted with National Trails Day and Trails Fest;
- Assisted with Greater Worcester Land Trust at Southwick Pond Step Project;
- Served as a member of the Volunteer Pine Hill Trail Crew, working tireless hours in June, July, August and September;
- Worked behind the scenes for the trail crew through texting, emailing and organizing volunteers for the crew, as well as the logistics with Wachusett Mountain Ski Area Banquet Facility to provide a corporate lunch for the crew. He ordered the needed rock shaping hammers, replacement handle for the rock splitting hammer. He figured out how to repair the handle, which he said was a lot harder than he anticipated.

The October Volunteer of the Month: Denny Laforce nominated by Steve Crowe for leadership with the chapters bike touring program and overnight trips and for helping out w/ trail work at Stratton Pond since 70's.

Also nominated:

- Christine Crepeault nominated by Walt Lazarz for leading many recent hikes including many Quabbin historical hikes at the Quabbin.
- Joe Massery nominated by Christine Crepeault for his work with City Square to solve the chapter's ZOOM account dilemmas which took three days. Joe jumps in and helps where he can.
- Alex Molnar nominated by Ruth Langh for her work on Ski Social held on October 25th.
- Ingrid Molnar nominated by Ruth Langh for her work on Ski Social held on October 25th.
- Brian Trimble nominated by Ruth Langh for his work on Ski Social held on October 25th.

Action Item Review

Action Item	Owner	Status
Submit notification of proposal for Endowment Committee name change in By-Laws prior to next Annual Meeting	Christine P.	OPEN
Migrate outdated SharePoint documents into archive folder	Chairs	OPEN
Status update on MST/Endowment bank access - Christine P to check with Mike Peckar	Mike Peckar, Christine P.	OPEN
Location of Planning Meeting –Auburn MS?	Wendy Dziedmian	OPEN

AMC WORCESTER CHAPTER

Executive Committee Calendar: 2022- 2023 (DRAFT)

Date	Day	Meeting
November 30, 2022	Wednesday	EC Meeting
1/21/23 9A – 1P	Saturday	EC Planning Meeting
1/25/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
2/4/23	Saturday	AMC Annual Summit, Norwood
2/22/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
3/29/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
4/26/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
???		AMC Chapters Retreat
5/31/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
6/28/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
Summer Break		😊
9/27/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
10/25/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
11/11/23 Sat (??) 5p-9p	? Saturday	Annual Meeting
11/29/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
Fall 2023 ??		Fall Fest

AMC Worcester is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom

Meeting <https://outdoors.zoom.us/j/2358136261?pwd=WWZta25LbXFoaVRKVmhQS99DVU96Zz09> Meeting ID: 235 813 6261

Passcode: 1918100

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,2358136261# US (New York)

+13017158592,,2358136261# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) Meeting ID: 235 813 6261

Find your local number: <https://outdoors.zoom.us/u/adNi7COPq>