

Worcester Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
April 27, 2016

Attendees: Dave Cole, Joe Massery, Tim Loftus, Kim Simpson, Charlie Arsenault, Sharon Whalen, Pat Lambert, Jose Schroen, Steve Ciras, Mike Foley, Steve Crowe, Susan Leo-Johnson, Michele Simoneau, John Grote, Deb Herlihy, Christina Ferretti, Gina Shea, David Eliot, Steve Ciras, Fred Mezynski, Don Cunningham, and guest Jonathan Dirodi (YM).

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

NORMAL BUSINESS

Secretary's Report (Tim L.):

The March 30, 2016 ExCom Meeting Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report (Jose S.):

The February 2016 Treasurer's Report was approved.

The March 2016 Treasurer's Report was approved.

Endowment Proposals Review and Approval (Pat L.):

1. The first proposal was submitted by Steve Crowe for Trips with a Purpose. It's basically for covering travel expenses for volunteers performing trail work outside Worcester County. This endowment request was for \$1215.00. Approved.
2. The second proposal was submitted by Steve Crowe for the Worcester Chapter Trails Committee. The request was for funds to purchase tools and for celebrations of the volunteerism and appreciation of participants who perform trail work within Worcester County, specifically at Wachusett Mountain. This endowment request was for \$1550.00. Approved.
3. The third proposal was submitted by Bill Spacciapoli for JUMP (Just Understand My Potential). The request was to help fund the costs for six hikes with underserved/low income youth from the Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster (BGCFI). These funds will be paid by the Chapter to AMC's Youth Opportunities Program (YOP) who will then pay JUMP. This endowment request was for \$2340.00. Approved.

Volunteer of the Month (Joe M.):

There were eleven Nominees for April 2016:

1. Janice Melchiorre, nominated by Joe Massery/Debi Garlick, for planning, organizing, and leading this winter's Mid-State Trail hiking series.

2. Dan Foster, nominated by Joe Massery, for planning, organizing, and leading the series of Map & Compass workshops.
3. Walt Lazarz, nominated by Chris Fogarty/Joe Massery/Steve Ciras, for work on the Backpacking Workshop.
4. Jose Schroen, nominated by Chris Fogarty/Joe Massery/Steve Ciras, for work on the Backpacking Workshop.
5. Annemarie Langhan, nominated by Chris Fogarty/Joe Massery/Steve Ciras, for work on the Backpacking Workshop.
6. Sue Ostrowski, nominated by Joe Massery/Steve Ciras, for work on the Backpacking Workshop.
7. Chris Fogarty, nominated by Joe Massery/Steve Ciras/Deb Herlihy, for work on the Backpacking Workshop, and for her tremendous job of spreading AMC knowledge to members, doing so with exuberance and enthusiasm.
8. Paul Glazebrook, nominated by Joe Massery/Steve Ciras, for work on the Backpacking Workshop.
9. Debi Garlick, nominated by Joe Massery/Steve Ciras, for work on the Backpacking Workshop.
10. Elaine Cibelli, nominated by Pan Fanjoy/David Elliott, for her leadership in the paddling group, and her motivational skills.
11. Deb Herlihy, nominated by Jean Langley, for her impressive job in meal preparation and the logistics of the WFA and Leadership training programs.

APRIL WINNER:

Emerson Grant, nominated by Steve Crowe, for the five days of support on the Pine Hill Trail maintenance project in October/November.

Some discussion ensued afterwards regarding nominees. Currently a nominee's name is put in the VOM "bucket" only once per year regardless of how many times that person has been nominated throughout the year by different people for different volunteer activities. Joe M. suggested that the nominee's name get put in the bucket for every month that person has been nominated, as this will increase their odds for getting a selection as VOM. The remaining rule that a nominee can only be selected as VOM once in a giving year will remain in place; once a person is selected, all their entries will be removed from the bucket. This new rule was agreed upon.

NEW BUSINESS

Photography workshop update (Deb H., Steve Ciras, and Mike F.):

Steve reported that they had a conference call with the organizers of the photography contest to discuss the workshop agenda (tentatively to be held in the fall 2016). It was suggested that the workshop participants include the sixteen people who submitted photos for this contest plus an additional four spots (20 workshop participants total). The location and to confirm a date for the workshop still needs to be finalized.

New Outdoors.org website has gone live (Deb, all-):

The general consensus is that the new website has a number of bugs to work out, especially with the search options. Joe M. suggested that as we work with the new website we keep track of the key enhancements we would like to see added/changed. Deb H. asked that we email her if we are having search issues with the website.

Proposed update to chapter's reimbursement policy (Joe M./Dave Cole):

Group discussion on the Proposed Update to Chapter Reimbursement Policy as submitted to the ExComm by Joe M. A number of concerns were brought up that needed clarification or changes. Steve Ciras suggested that a subcommittee be formed with Joe as the lead, but consisting of Steve Ciras, Deb Herlihy, Sharon Whalen, and Pat Lambert. This group will review and advise the executive committee within the next few months.

National Trails Day (Steve Crowe):

Steve emphasized that National Trails Day (6/4) was not just for trail maintenance, but can be for other outside activities such as paddling, hiking, etc. However, on June 4 and 5, Steve will be hosting a work crew for trail work on the Pine Hill Trail at Wachusett Mtn. Mike Foley will also be helping with another crew on one of the Wachusett trails. Mike will follow-up with a BBQ at Wachusett afterwards.

Kim Simpson, along with Colin Novick, will be leading a work crew for trail maintenance on June 4th along the Mid-State Trail. There will also be morning hikes before gathering at Sibley Farms site for lunch. Kim extended the invitation to the GWLT leaders as well as the town officials along the 14 communities that the MST goes through to participate in this.

Beginning discussion on Annual Meeting Budget cuts: The How/When- (Dave Cole/ExComm):

The subcommittee/special task force made up of Charlie A., Sharon W., Jose S., Mike F., and Steve Crowe will work on the Annual Meeting Budget cut ideas and present them to the May and June ExComm meetings.

In the ensuing related discussion on the Annual Meeting:

Sharon W. will start working on the Annual Meeting Flyer for a completion date by the end of August.

Charlie A. will form a nominating committee. He will contact all serving in each position to confirm their continued involvement and to fill any upcoming open positions on the ExComm. (These positions are voted in at the Annual Meeting.)

OLD BUSINESS

Action Items:

Spring Picnic (Joe M.):

Joe reported that all jobs are owned by volunteers and that the activities have been posted online. Steve Ciras will also lead the fishing derby for the kids. John and Charlie will host the slack line.

Flyers for the Spring Picnic were available for anyone on the ExComm to take (for placements at libraries, work, etc.).

Video Challenge (Dave Cole):

This challenge will be coming up again. Put on your thinking caps.

Advertising revenue for Newsletter – what other chapters do (Bruce):

Will review at the next meeting.

LNT – try to gather responses from the LNT trained from our chapter as future trainers, in particular targeting a fall event (Steve Ciras):

Continuing to work on.

Reminder of chapter projector and equipment location (Dave):

Fred M. will be taking care of this.

Round table (all).

Mike Foley: Looking for people to adopt some trails. He will send out a list of trails by email to promote sign-ups.

Steve Crowe: Planning a June or July date for Adopt-A-Trail volunteer training.

Christina Ferretti: Twenty-two people participated in the Full Moon hike last week (and a big thank you to Mike Foley for leading). Will be a social event on April 28th.

John Grote: The Tuesday climbing activity is still going strong.

Michele Simoneau: In the planning stages for the annual hike on the Moats (North Conway).

Kim Simpson: The DCR is directly involved with the CGLT to pick an appraiser for the Lussier Land in Spencer.

Charlie Arsenault: The Nominating Committee will be contacting the ExComm members in May to ask if we want to continue in the same positions next year. Also open to ideas on individuals assuming different leadership positions.

Two people have already signed up for Mountain Leadership School. Some scholarships are available for those interested.

David Elliot: Putting together a hard-core Intro To Paddling program. Will be a one-day program on the Quinebaug Canoe Trail.

Deb Herlihy: The two WFA training weekends had 76 participants total for both weekends. Nineteen scholarships were given to Worcester Chapter members to attend WFA. A big thank you went to Deb for both helping to organize the event and for her fabulous cooking for each weekend. She also added that 23 people will be attending the upcoming Leadership Class.

Fred Mezynski: The next 3rd Wednesday event will be held at the Broad Meadow Brook Audubon in Worcester.

Gina Shea: Gina gave a thank you to all who helped with the Spring Open House. Fifty people attended.

A short discussion followed about inviting any new attendees (by email) to the Spring Picnic.

Gina will send the emails obtained from the Open House to Joe M., who will then email them a Spring Picnic flyer.

Pat Lambert: In the last newsletter, Pat opened the invitation for anyone interested in joining her on her next On the Road with the Endowment Chair series. One person expressed an interest. The next adventure in this series will be Barbara Dyer's overnight trip to Cardigan.

Joe Massery: The Backpacking Workshop went well. There were 45 attendees and 12 volunteers. The program generated great feedback. Joe thanks all who helped with this successful event.

Dave Cole: Barbara Dyer's son attained his Eagle Scout rank. Dave will speak at the ceremony honoring this achievement.

Food for March ExCom meeting.

Bruce Wester

Meeting adjourned: 8:10 pm