

**Worcester Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
March 30, 2016**

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

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

Dave Cole presiding.

Hiking Chair Nomination

Gina Shea (currently serving as Hiking Vice-Chair) was nominated for the Hiking Chair position. After a quick review of her past leadership positions both in and out of the AMC, experiences, and the overwhelming support of the nominating committee, Gina was unanimously approved as our new Hiking Chair. Welcome aboard!

NORMAL BUSINESS

Secretary's Report (Tim L.):

The February 24, 2016 ExCom Meeting Minutes were amended to correct the title of Joanna Lemmon as Senior Manager of "the AMC Youth Opportunity Programs (YOP)." Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report (Jose S.):

December 2015 Treasurer's Report: approved.

January 2016 Treasurer's Report: approved.

Note: There was some discussion on modifying future Treasurer's Reports to reflect a pure cash-flow basis. For example, money spent in December 2015 for an upcoming event in January 2016 should be recorded in the December 2015 Report, not the January 2016 Report. This modification would start with the February Report.

Endowment Proposals Review and Approval (Pat L.):

1. The first proposal is for the Common Ground Land Trust (CGLT) and the Greater Worcester Land Trust (GWLT) to get land appraised in a section of Spencer where the Mid-State Trail passes. This is the first step in potentially preserving this land so that the MST can continue to cross it. Future actions to be taken by the property owners depends on the outcome of this appraisal. CGLT, in partnership with GWLT, requests \$2000.00 to cover the cost of this appraisal. Approved by the ExComm.
2. The second proposal is for continued support of the AMC Youth Opportunities Program (YOP). The Worcester Chapter previously approved a 3-year endowment request to support

the YOP, of which they are currently in the second year of this support. One of the stipulations for this support is that the YOP provide us with an annual report so that we can determine each year if we want to continue funding. This report was submitted which details the work accomplished by the YOP and its partner organizations. Joanna Lemmon, Senior Manager of the AMC YOP, also provided an overview of the YOP and its accomplishments at the February 2016 ExComm meeting. The ExComm approved their request of \$5000.00 for this second year of continued support.

Endowment Realistic Time-Line Discussion (Pat L.):

Pat explained the review process for endowment requests and the time frame each step takes (which includes Endowment Committee review, Joy St. review, ExComm questions, etc.). She requests that endowment requests be submitted at least one month prior to the ExComm meeting. She also asked that we inform others outside the ExComm who may be requesting funds of this request. Charlie reminded us that funds cannot be requested for money already spent.

Budget Approval (Jose, all of us): Approved

Note: The subcommittee Dave Cole, Jose S., Charlie A., Steve Ciras, and Steve Crowe and Joe reworked the 2016 budget, reducing the deficit to within approximately \$980. The ExComm approved the 2016 Budget as presented with the understanding that the deficit will be reduced/eliminated through judicious management throughout the year. Suggestions included reducing or eliminating some of the fee subsidies to members for attendance at the Chapter's Annual Meeting and the Fall Gathering (as examples).

Volunteer of the Month (Joe M.):

We had fourteen Nominees for March 2016:

1. Dave Laska, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for co-leading the annual White Mt Ski weekend.
2. Paul Saulnier, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for co-leading the annual White Mt Ski weekend.
3. Stephanie Krzyzewski, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for organizing the YM social night at the Medusa Brewery.
4. Alexandra Molnar, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for organizing the YM social night at the Medusa Brewery.
5. Zenya Molnar, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for organizing the YM social night at the Medusa Brewery.
6. Jonathan Dirodi, nominated by Charlie Arsenault, for organizing the YM social night at the Medusa Brewery.
7. Walt Lazarz, nominated by Debi Garlick, for his leadership during the White Mountain Winter Weekend.
8. Sue Ostrowski, nominated by Gina Shea, for leading and planning local hikes, and for her efforts to enlist other leaders for local hikes.
9. Neil Schutzman, nominated by Gina Shea, for all his work in organizing upcountry hikes including the peak-bagging series.
10. Walt Lazarz, nominated by Gina Shea, for his leadership in leading and organizing backpacking trips and planning this year's backpacking series.
11. Tom Corrigan, nominated by Mike Foley, for his help with hiking trips, GWLT project, and the Adopt-A-Trail program.

12. Denny LaForce, nominated by Andy W., for his efforts and leadership on numerous cycling events.
13. Dana Perry, nominated by Pat Lambert, for his help with the On the Road with the Endowment Chair series to help bring to light AMC's successful effort to preserve land at Sweet William Farm in Upton, MA.
14. Stephanie Krzyzewski, nominated by John Grote, for organizing the YM climbing event at Central Rock Gym in Worcester.

MARCH WINNER: Paul Glazebrook

NEW BUSINESS

Photography workshop organizing (Deb H. and Mike F.).

The AMC Worcester Chapter won an AMC photography workshop. We are to host this workshop by November 2016. A subcommittee of Steve Ciras, Mike Foley, and Deb Herlihy was formed to determine/plan the details of this workshop (length of time for the workshop, location, class size, location, etc.) and will report these details at the next ExComm meeting.

Use of Chapter projectors/locations/connectivity issues/planning for them (Mike Foley):

Mike brought up concerns of the availability of the new projector and use of the old projector. Recommended that Fred M. keep the projectors, screen, and supporting hardware (such as the connecting cable) for use at the Third Wednesday meetings (where the equipment gets the most use). Fred will assume the responsibility of keeping track of this equipment.

Revenue Source: Advertisements in the Newsletter (Dave Cole, Steve Crowe):

Discussion on how much revenue this will pull in for the club, and what would be acceptable as advertising (outdoor equipment vs spas, for example). Bruce Wester volunteered to check with other chapters who accept advertising to see what they do before we move forward with this.

LNT (Steve Ciras):

Steve suggested that we use our existing LNT (Leave-No-Trace) trainers for a fall training event. He will organize this with the other trainers.

OLD BUSINESS

Action Items:

Spring Picnic (Joe M.):

Joe reported that the basic structure is in place and is now fleshing out the details. Many have stepped forward to lead activities so far. Planned activities include map and compass, rock splitting, and a slackline activity.

Round table (all).

Charlie Arsenault: The YM event at the Central Rock Climbing Gym went very well.

Recommended that committee chairs share the Meet-Up Guidelines with their leaders. More can be done with Meet-Up than just listing trips and it's a way to disperse information to those not on the AMC site.

Mike Foley: Need more volunteers for Adopt-A-Trail. He also will be leading hikes similar to Hiking-With-A-Purpose where they will be cleaning up the trails.

Gina Shea: Provided Spring Open House flyers to ExComm members who wish could help advertise the event.

Steve Ciras: Suggested that those who are leading events at the Spring Picnic to make it clear on the AMC site that the event is part of the Spring Picnic.

Pat Lambert: Described her March 22nd tour with Dana Perry of the Sweet William Farm, an area preserved, in part, with help from the AMC Endowment Fund. She is submitting an article about this for the spring issue of the Wachusett News.

More information on the way as Pat stars in "On the Road with the Endowment Chair." The Endowment Committee had its first dinner together as a committee, since its inception in 2005, on March 24. We recognized Ken Baldyga for his years of service as he "retired" from the committee.

Pat attended the TOP Worcester Adventure Summit on March 30. Partner organizations presented their accomplishments, challenges and plans for the upcoming year. Pat will submit an article on the summit for the summer edition of the newsletter.

Kim Simpson: Because of the relatively warm and snowless winter, the Mid-State Trail has been open all winter with continued maintenance. Also, all sections of the MST have a trail maintainer.

Kim also reported that Representative McGovern participated in a hike at the Sibley Farm event at the invitation of the Mid-State Trail Committee in support of National Trails Day.

Deb Herlihy: The two Wilderness First Aid (WFA) courses will be held in April. Both courses are at capacity.

Christina Ferretti: The recent rock climbing event went very well. Two upcoming events will be an April Full Moon Hike and a May backpacking event.

Susan Leo-Johnson: Finalizing the Leave-No-Trace (LNT) for families to be held at the GWLT cabin on Southwick Pond. Scheduled for April 22nd.

Starting to use the Meet-Up page to build more momentum/awareness for Families Activities.

John Grote: Still climbing on Tuesdays. Stated that YMs are welcome to participate.

Joe Massery: The April backpacking workshop has 35 paid. Expecting 50 to attend, which will be a full house.

AMC is initiating a blog and is looking for leaders to contribute one or two (300-500 word) articles per year. If interested, see Joe for details.

Steve Crowe: Submitted a volunteer service agreement to the staff at Wachusett (which includes guidelines on what volunteers can and cannot do – such as chainsaw use, blazing trails, tool storage, etc.).

Steve led a basic trail maintenance training on March 22nd.

On April 23/24 there is more work planned for the Wachusett's Pine Hill Trail reconstruction project.

Relayed that the DCR is open to have AMC Ambassadors at different events. One person so far has expressed an interest in being an ambassador. This program is at the idea

stage now.

National Trails Day (June 4th) Work on the Pine Hill Trail at Wachusett with a BBQ afterwards. Mike Foley will be helping out. Looking for other folks to lead activities (hike, biking, etc.) around the Wachusett area.

Dave Cole: Reminder to email him with agenda items for our next ExComm meeting.

Food for March ExCom meeting.

Joe Massery

Meeting adjourned: 8:30 pm