

Worcester Chapter Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, April 26, 2017  
Boylston Historical Society, 7 Central St., Boylston, MA

Attending: Dave Cole, Joe Massery, Kim Beauchemin, Pat Flanagan (minutes), Jose Schroen, Pat Lambert, Michele Simoneau, Bruce Wester, Steve Crowe, Fred Mezynski, Kim Simpson, Karen Maki, Gina Shea, Barbara Dyer, Jonathan Dirodi, Mike Foley, David Elliott, Ingrid Molnar, Zenya Molnar, Alexandra Molnar, Christina Ferretti, Deb Herlihy

Guest: Claudine Mapa

### **Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm

Dave Cole, presiding

Dave asked that we all sign the guest book to help benefit the historical society.

### **Normal Business**

-Approve Secretary's Reports (Pat Flanagan)

February Meeting minutes: Approved

March Meeting minutes: Approved

-Approve Treasurer's Reports (Jose Schroen)

January: Approved

February: Jose made some changes to the version sent, working with Pat Lambert. The vote is on this updated version, which was approved.

March: There was discussion about activity lines with no assigned budget and how endowment for operations funds moved into the budget might apply to these. It was determined that we will leave these activities as is and draw from the general \$15K to support them. There are also three lines that need to be closed and moved back into the endowment. They were previously approved, but the report Jose sent did not include them. The report was approved with these changes.

-Software problems and need for update (Jose)

Jose was using the system the previous treasurer used, but lost the system in a computer update. A number of files were lost and Jose contacted HQ about what to do and whether a common system should be used by all chapters. Quickbooks was recommended. Jose is now

using Quickbooks and HQ is considering making it available to chapters. Using the common software will help with transfers to future treasurers.

-Endowment proposals review and approval (Pat Lambert)

Two requests were sent from Burncoat Outdoor Adventure Squad (by Tom Donington, who visited the February ECOM meeting). The first request is for a trip in June (\$1100 for 10 students and 2 adults) to support a whitewater rafting trip. The second request is to support their September Labor Day Weekend trip to Acadia (\$1350 for 12 students and 2 adults, using YOP gear). Students will develop leadership skills and have the opportunity to experience outdoor activities in each event. Risks have been addressed by having teachers drive. The motion to fund both proposals was approved.

The 3rd payment of a multi-year request approved in 2015 to fund Worcester YOP for three consecutive years at \$5000/year was approved. YOP provided the annual report, as required by the approved request, that was shared with the EC. The youth organizations involved with the Worcester YOP met at the Worcester YOP Annual Summit on March 30 where they shared their experiences over the past year and plans for the upcoming year. Pat did not receive any questions about the report, so asks if we should be moving forward to fund the upcoming year's \$5000. Barb asked if there are funds for these requests, plus JUMP, plus others coming through the pipeline. Pat reported yes, however we will need to dip into the reserve account this coming year. The motion to move forward with this year's funding was approved.

-Volunteer of the Month (Joe Massery)

Joe reported 29 nominations were received.

Ken Baldyga	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
John Gau	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Paul Glazebrook	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Dave Gottesfeld	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Denise Guillemette	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Steph Keimig	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Annmarie Langan	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
*Walt Lazarz	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Debi Moore	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
John Roberts	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Neil Schutzman	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Juliana Vanderwielen	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Andy Wojcikowski	Steve Ciras	For attending and completing AWFA.
Don Hoffses	Steve Ciras	For filling in for Kim Simpson as MST rep on Exec. Committee.
*Walt Lazarz	Joe Massery	For contributing to Backpacking Workshop
*Debi Garlick	Joe Massery	For contributing to Backpacking Workshop
Paul Glazebrook	Joe Massery	For contributing to Backpacking Workshop
Dana Perry	Joe Massery	For contributing to Backpacking Workshop
Chris Fogarty	Joe Massery	For contributing to Backpacking Workshop

Teresa Iapalucci	Joe Massery	For contributing to Backpacking Workshop
Marcus Ainsworth	Joe Massery	For contributing to Backpacking Workshop
Marcus Ainsworth	Chris Fogarty	For contributing to Backpacking Workshop
Chris Fogarty	Paul Glazebrook	For her work at the Backpacking Workshop
Rob Robertson	Mike Foley	For coming out of AMC retirement to help out with leadership training View.
*David Elliott	Faith Salter	For showing a lot of hustle and hospitality to get his leader wannab connected with leaders, get trips posted, and get people on the water
Claudine Mapa	Christina Ferretti	For being the driving force behind our Notch Hostel trip.
*Walt Lazarz	Debi Garlick	For collecting trash along 57 miles of AT during section hike.
Neil Schutzman	Debi Garlick	For collecting trash along 57 miles of AT during section hike.
Neil Schutzman	Walt Lazarz	For collecting trash along 57 miles of AT during section hike.

\*=ineligible because previous 2017 VOM or EC member

April winner: Denise Guillmette

## **New Business**

-Spring Picnic update (Joe)

The event will be held Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Events are planned as part of the picnic. Some are scheduled, but Joe would like to see a paddling event (Jose will co-lead with Dave Elliott to make this happen) and a bike ride (Bruce has a leader identified for an intermediate ride and is looking for a leader for another ride). Hikes, geocaching, family games, a fishing derby, a birding event, a slack line, and a gear yard sale are set to be part of the picnic.

Additional publicity is planned. Events happening at the picnic will be posted as any event, but with the label of "spring picnic." Advertising is being done on Facebook, via the newsletter, and email messaging. Claudine suggested we might want to put up flyers at YMCAs and other places families go to attract non-members. Kim B. will write up a press release and send it to local newspapers. Last year, Karen contacted local towns and some put it on their local TV cable slides or on their web sites. Barb noted that JUMP, Mountain Classroom, and YOP could also be invited; Pat L. will send them information. Barb also noted that ECOM members can promote to their friends via their Facebook pages or other means.

-Creation of subcommittee to review chapter bylaws and report in (Steve Ciras) – Moved to next month.

-Notch Hostel trip 20's and 30's group (Christina and Claudine)

Claudine described a plan for a July trip that will bring YM's to the Whites. She investigated bunks at The Notch Hostel. The group is 15 people, including about 4 leaders, in this first year, with hope for growing the event next year. They will run a variety of events out of The Notch on

the Saturday and a few Sunday. Christina reported that the budget required to do this is larger than anticipated, so they are asking for help to reserve the space until people can register through PayPal, with the net cost to the chapter assumed zero; it is a self-funded trip once everyone has paid. Pat L. reminded ECOM that there is a policy that if there are cancellations that cause a loss the leaders have to cover the bill, but it is felt that this is discouraging to those hoping to plan events. A deposit of \$293, or 30%, is needed up front to hold the space. Deb H. noted that with the 30 day cancellation notice at The Notch, the registration deadline can be set up to ensure there is no loss. Christina confirmed that she accounted for the 4% Paypal fee in the trip cost to registrants. Jose reported that with NH tax the total needed via registration will be \$979.37. Deb noted this method is used for other events like wilderness first aid training.

Claudine and Christina also asked what happens to any revenues that might be gained. They will work with Deb H., as leadership chair, on how to price the event according to chapter policy and practice.

#### -National Trails Day & Park Serve Day (Steve Crowe)

Steve reported that this Saturday trailwork is planned. Big Brother/Big Sister is sending people to help. Steve is looking for more people to prepare things on Friday and do the trailwork on Saturday.

On National Trails Day, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, many different types of events are eligible to be added to the American Hiking Society's web site. Steve usually gets more volunteers for trailwork by listing on this site.

#### -Chapter's Endowment Fund – long term strategy (Pat Lambert)

Pat wants to begin a conversation about this, and asks everyone to start thinking about it now. It will be on the agenda for a group discussion at the January Planning Meeting. People can bring their thoughts at that time to determine a strategic approach. She reported that last year over 30K in requests were approved, including some for chapter operations, some for youth programs, and the rest for land conservation and some other things. All fall under the AMC mission. When the endowment was established in 2005 there were very few requests so the annual allocation received from the Club was never exhausted. Now we receive more requests which have started to exceed our annual allocation from the Club. Before we exhaust the funds we need a planful approach for them, what priorities or a focus could be used for decisions, for example. A planned approach can help avoid running up against a purpose we want to but cannot fund because we have funded other things instead. Pat L. will do an orientation at next May's meeting about the endowment. Joe noted that our chapter budgeting process should cover most needs and not impact the budget, triggering need for endowment monies. Steve Crowe suggested that if we determine a focus for endowment funds, a priority like land conservation is one he would suggest.

-Open House planning, Spring Hiking Workshop, and Progressive Hiking series updates (Jon Dirodi and Gina Shea)

Gina reported that the Intro to Hiking Workshop is on May 10<sup>th</sup>, which is different than the Open House, which happens in the spring. The latter is more generally about what our chapter offers. Jon is planning the Open House to be this fall instead, probably October. The Open House last year had about 12 speakers, focused on activities of the chapter, and was at the Northborough Historical Society. About 65 attended. Mike reported he saw at least eight people later, but overall we don't know how many of the attendees became active. Jon's idea is to use a roundtable style approach, so people can visit tables that interest them. Dave proposed it be scheduled for 2018 and begin the planning for it in December, but Barb noted January is the biggest month for new members, so possibly having it in January makes sense. Dave will put it on the October ECOM agenda to identify a planning process, timing, and timeline.

Gina reported that the progressive hiking series is also part of the May 10<sup>th</sup> workshop; it is the Wachusett to the Whites, track II series, where the Intro to Hiking is the Track I series.

-Paul Glazebrook program for families and underserved communities with Trustees of the Reservations (Joe Massery)

Paul sent Joe information about an introduction to winter camping that is sponsored by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Trustees of the Reservations, and expressed some interest in working with the AMC, as well. Pat L. noted that if any funding is required it would have to go to the Club level, because so many organizations are involved. Joe has sent Faith Salter a query, but hasn't receive a reply yet. Joe will report back to Paul about next steps, if any.

-Membership marketing card for new members (Karen Maki)

Karen asked if the content is what is desired and should we move forward. The piece she designed is a postcard, full color one side and black and white on the reverse. It would be sent to new chapter members to welcome them. It was decided it should be signed by Karen as membership chair. Postage for non-profits will be investigated, but otherwise postage and printing costs will be involved and come out of the membership budget. If it challenges the budget as the program gets going, we will determine what to do.

-Update on Camp Dodge Challenge (Dave)  
Moved to May meeting

-Speaker for the Annual Meeting in November (or dance) and games (Dave, Karen, group)

Karen would like to gather new ideas. Dave reported that last year a few people got together to plan the November meeting in 2016. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary kick off would be a component.

Dave suggested a small committee be formed. Karen, Jon, Joe, and Dave will take part. The Manor is already booked for November 11<sup>th</sup>.

## **Old Business**

Action Item: (date created) Deb, Mike, Steve (4/16) Photo workshop – open sometime in 2017

## **Round Table (All)**

Christina: attended the YM retreat in NJ. They are planning more inter-chapter and conservation activities. A Tanglewood event is in planning stages.

Claudine: is trying to recruit people to organize peak bagging events for Y/M. Their social is at Medusa Brewing this Thursday and ECOM is welcome.

Jon: attended the Massachusetts Land Conference and the AMC was not represented; it would be good if we could present next year.

Kim B.: was at the Backpacking workshop at the Assabet Valley Wildlife Preserve Conference Center. Followup included Assabet Pulling Together, a workshop on invasive species, every Saturday through late fall. Maybe we could do one of these Saturdays. Kim will pursue.

Bruce: the Bike Touring Essentials is Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> at Cabellas. Speakers and gear will be part of it. He also suggested that perhaps volunteers for the annual meeting planning group should be people beyond ECOM, to get some fresh ideas.

Alex: a request for newsletter articles was just sent. The deadline is May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Ingrid: The first official Families event was last Sunday on rock climbing. Attendance was small but fun. Family Outdoor Day with paddling will be planned with Berkshire and Boston chapters. They will work with Bruce on cycling ideas, too, and geocaching at the picnic is new.

Deb: leadership training is in two weeks. 30 are signed up. Berkshire chapter exec people will help train as it is a cooperative event.

Pat L: is leading an event with Steph K so she can become upcountry certified

Steve Crowe: had more conversation about a piece of property that the AMC decided not to sell. He hopes that AMC and the Greater Worcester Land Trust can become partners and work more successfully together.

Fred: noted that the Broad Brook Meadow cook out and pot luck is planned.

David E: reported that a lot of events are planned and some co-leads from other chapters may be part of it; a paddler's meeting is planned at Dave's house next Tuesday. Y/M may request an event where their members can rent boats.

Mike: started the Quabbin hiking series in January. There have been several hikes, some done twice. More are upcoming. People from various chapters are participating. Water was an issue at Tully Pond.

Barb: if there is interest in volunteering at the huts, May 6<sup>th</sup> is the training at the Highland Center, Friday through Sunday. For families events – Girl Scouts requested leadership for an event and the Boy Scouts would like to be led to Purgatory Chasm.

Dave: The Camp Dodge challenge has reached about \$9000. We hope to match some funding of 5k this year and 5K next, if they reach the 10,000 threshold.

Joe: The backpacking workshop was attended by about 50 and got very good feedback. Dirk made a video that was a hit. The second part, the gear shakedown has 50 signed up and more are still signing up. It will be this weekend at Upton State Park. Second: Joe recently walked the Boston/Worcester Airline Trolley Trail. It will go through many towns between the two cities. FYI to others about it.

Food and planning for May meeting: Joe

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm