

AMC Worcester Chapter

Executive Committee Meeting: 4/26/2023

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

Auburn Middle School: 9 West Street, Auburn, MA 01501

6:30 PM — Meeting called to order & Regular business (15 min) - Christine Pignatiello, Chair

- Welcome and Review working agreements (online etiquette).

- Review/Accept minutes of previous EC Meeting – Mar 2023 **(5 min)**
Discussion: One update from Jose
Motion: Chris C; Eric Second
Vote: All in favor

- Review of February Treasurer’s Report – Jose **(5 min)**
Discussion: 4 reports. Dec, Jan, Feb revisions numbers at bottom. Endowment vs operations. Thank ChrisC for solution. Re- did. No feedback except Joe (happy keeping track). Uploaded on SharePoint.

Had Planned to move us from Credit Union to Chase bank (all chapters same place) – May 1.
 Now maybe June/July.

- Volunteer of the Month – April 2023 – Wendy **(5 min)**

Joe Massery	Fred Mezynski	Helping with 3rd Wednesday each month. He always attends, and advises on setup and scheduling. This month, if he hadn't brought his spare key, we would not have been able to get into the building!!
Joe Massery	Walt Lazarz	Co-led my "Black & Blueberry" hike in the Whites. He took over as leader when I had to cut the two-peak hike short because of my knees and completed the trip with the group.
Joe Massery	Charlie Arsenaault	Coleader for the Chapter's Backpacking Gear Shakedown. Did an outstanding job in advising and guiding this year's crop of newbies in the beginner backpacking program.
Joe Massery	Chris Fogarty	Coleader for the Chapter's Backpacking Gear Shakedown. Did an outstanding job in advising and guiding this year's crop of newbies in the beginner backpacking program.
Joe Massery	Sue Serra	Coleader for the Chapter's Backpacking Gear Shakedown. Did an outstanding job in advising and guiding this year's crop of newbies in the beginner backpacking program.
Joe Massery	Rick Chin	Coleader for the Chapter's Backpacking Gear Shakedown. Did an outstanding job in advising and guiding this year's crop of newbies in the beginner backpacking program.
Joe Massery	Walt Lazarz	Coleader for the Chapter's Backpacking Gear Shakedown. Did an outstanding job in advising and guiding this year's crop of newbies in the beginner backpacking program.
Walt Lazarz	Steve Gabis	His involvement in the Traces in the Forest hike.
Chris Fogarty	Rick Chin	Rick has been volunteering with the intro to backpacking workshop for a couple of years. He instructed at the seminar day for the first time this year. He has a warm and engaging personality that makes all participants feel welcome. As a trip leader, he takes great care to plan trips that are interesting and fun for all.
Ruth Lanh	John Wojdak	For John's help in ski leadership development at Wachusett Mountain
Ingrid Molnar	Steve Gabis and Walt Lazarz	Steve and Walt led a most interesting cultural/historical hike exploring traces left by Native Americans, building foundations, and a large quarry in Leominster State Forest. The hike contributed to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the indigenous people who lived in the area. Thank you!

WINNER (by randomizer): Fred Mezynski

6:45 PM — Special Guest (15 min)

- Bill Manser – Healing Waters; Fly Fishing trips for disabled veterans
 - Introduce Joe Mahan, Joe Young:
 - Bill AMC long time; shared connection between veterans fishing and hikers in woods. Very therapeutic for vets with PTSD.
 - Central Mass and prior Gorman chairback; John Derek: NH and funds lodges
 - AMC firmly behind Veterans.
 - Veterans share:
- JOE Mahan :
 - Served in arm forces, then experienced life changing event in 2015 that left him disabled and non-ambulatory. Unable to work or mountain climb. Needed to find a way to re-establish his identity.
 - Met Bill - “do you like to fish?” Joe couldn’t walk; Bill had a program. They pick you up; hold your belt while fish. Teach fly fish; give equipment. Was sad, lonely, depressed, and angry. Decided Ok would go. 2 -3 guys vets too. Mentors help ; One year later can walk, caught fish on a tie he tied; on a pole he built; look forward every week. Value immeasurable
 - AMC hut trip for the first time in 6 years anywhere other than house. They brought up; helped; place to stay. Safe dry place to sleep
 - Reconnect with other vets. VALUE hard to describe; Brotherhood; when away from that don’t know how valuable until get back. Value to use YOUR (AMC facilities) to participate; feel like a human being; contributing; part of something. EXPONENTIALLY better than the statement “thank you for your service”
 - **Applause**
 - VA grants and Program participation requirements
 - Provide ridesharing; rent vans; enterprise rent a car.
 - Brochure provided
- JOE Young:
 - greatest org joined ; like to fly fish; 14 years later; combine hiking and fly fishing at the same time. Brotherhood; sisterhood; gone post-military. We re-established. Friend older member: last year trip to MAINE saved his life.
 - Reiterate thank you
 - **Applause**
 - Any questions: post on social

7:00 PM — Old business (30 min)

- Interchapter Committee – Henderson brook trail:
 - Request for Worcester Chapter to subsidize participation on this trail crew - \$1073.
 - Finance Committee Recommendation – Christine C (5 min)
 - ECOM Review and VOTE (5 Min)
 - Review:* No opposition to committee formal review. Doesn’t need to go to finance.
 - Covers 8 people to participate.*
 - Motion:* ChrisP support endeavor 8 individuals; Wendy second
 - Discussion:* None
 - Vote:* All in favor
- Planning Meeting Follow Up items
 - Leadership Recognition Event(s) – Update to be provided in May

- Carbon Footprint Challenge Update – Eric Harris (5 min)
 - Not many participants. Business cards. Printed with QR code.
 - Social media posts were good – Wendy. Few folks haven't received patches: Cheri Mitchell, Richard Helle, Sue Ciera. Emailed

- QR Code – Call for ideas – Members asked last month for ideas – Chris P (10 min)
 - TrailsFest.
 - Similar to carbon footprint
 - Who would print cards? \$25 for 50. Vista print inexpensive. Trailsfest has budget
 - Can we just use a phone with QR code?. Treat as expo material
 - Assume to have a table during trails fest
 - Membership. Shalin. Efficacy of QR codes. Tested and learned Piffy case short powerful compelling single sentence < 20 words. Create spaces, short sentences. Eye Catching.
 - Kathryn Wendy Carol come up something "Piffy" for TrailsFest with catchy phrase

- Nicole Zussman (AMC CEO) Invite – Chris P (5 min)
 - May ECOM mtg – Confirmed will attend.
 - Local hike / activity – Remains Pending.
 - Gear shed to Kinney Woods to highlight or Educators Outdoors. Meighan will facilitate to see if she's available.
 - Charlie: What would you like from her? Just a few minutes to address our team. Just Q & A is fine. She wants to meet as many as possible. Trying to get to everyone.
 - Meighan: more people on Gear shed better

- TrailsFest - Kim
 - Similar format as last year
 - Gear shed activity in this window.
 - Ways to post. "TrailsFest" (all one word) hike in ActDb
 - Tailgate potluck Wachusett parking lot 1PM.
 - Mike Foley bring grill - may need help setup
 - Debi help coordinate
 - Kathryn table
 - Eric carbon footprint info
 - Colin - Worcester Land Trust will be there
 - 20s30s rep
 - Banners check with Joe
 - Website highlight
 - Popups needed? ChrisP has one if raining; Joe may have one
 - General Public. Lots of folks off of Balance Rock.
 - Hikes so far: haunted Day; map compass
 - 50 participants last year

7:30 PM — New business (25 min)

- Hiking & Backpacking Definitions – Debi Garlic (5 min)
 - 5 years ago guidelines updates; lots of confusing local vs upcountry
 - Local boundaries state; anything outside of MA. = Upcountry
 - Local 8 or less; 1000 or less. Should be changed to 8 (not 6)

- Upcountry > 8 >1000 = Greylock.
- Based on mileage and elevation;
- 7 miles and 1200 elevation: Judgement call: probably upcountry w/ second leader and WF
- Attempt to make it more specific that can be measured.
- Should be both in mileage and elevation.
- Do we need to take a vote? Because impacts ability to lead - # leaders; WFA;
- ECOM Review and VOTE
Discussion: Definitions ok; Local Hike ok; Up country definition ok. NOTE: Bigelow Hollow CT don't normally need second leader. Now you do. Backpack trip?
Motion: ChrisP accept as written; Wendy second.
Vote: All in favor; one opposed; Favor wins
 Debbie will send notice to leaders and Carol to update guidelines

- Worcester Chapter Leadership level transition update – Colby Meehan/Don Davies **(5 min)**
 - Work with Colby Meehan
 - Reclassify leader levels
 - Colby look at all activities; break down by categories
 - Spreadsheet will be sent to activity chairs. Based on activity come up with different categories
 - Hiking example: local, local 3 season; upcountry
 - List in spreadsheet as categories
 - List what each leader can do. In each season. Basically what can that leader do
 - Hiking example: local, local 3 season; upcountry Local 3 season; same person could also be in upcountry numbers
 - Fill in next couple weeks ; Don will compile;
 - Colby will review and suggest where new levels will fit.
 - Back and forth and work with them to convert to new leader levels

- Outdoors Connector update – Meighan **(5 min)**
 - Thought another demo. Not ready. Timeline will be updated in May.
 - Really progressing
 - Involving volunteers in decisions and development
 - Registration questions. Pick and choose. Volunteer input
 - Treasures involved in financial transaction pieces.
 - No more PayPal

- Chapter Webpage Update – Carol **(5 min)**
 - Reviewed previously distributed document

- Membership Update – Kathryn **(5 min)**
 - Terri Morrow: all membership together
 - Worcester 2904 current members 3/31/23. down a bit. 2022: 475 new members – amazing; 2023: 397 renewals in first quarter. On trends for past years. New members unknown Why don't we have new members?
 - Return rate of new members 42% renewed. High for AMC. Historical # is lower.
 - One other chapter is > 40% is NH. Every other chapter is about 30%
 - 2 year retention rate 81%. In line with other. Clubs.
 - Why do we do better than other chapters?
 - Want to compare market to market vs chapter to chapter. Other conservancy orgs
 - What are the earned efforts? Ask terry. True organic vs value membership (\$ on lodge)
 - Interesting one potential reason renewal down . Mail volume dropped 21-22
 - Primary reason down website followed by direct mail . direct mail is down
 - Also implemented automatic renewals.

7:55PM – Kudos / General Announcements (5 min)


- Around the Table
 - Special kudos to Debi for completing AT- 10 years!!!! Vanessa was partner on final hike.
 - Meighan, Ingrid, Nate Gear Shed policies who can use. What chapter groups use. Family effort ; camping weekend using gear shed as example. Ask Nate Ingrid
 - Joe. 3 boxes gear video projectors screen. Looking for a home
 - Cheri; wants a co-chair for families. Kim put up on ActDb.
 - Charlie acknowledges and welcomes Shalin, former board member.

8:00PM - Adjourn

Action Item Review

Action Item	Owner	Status
Submit notification of proposal for Endowment Committee name change in By-Laws prior to next Annual Meeting (see Nov 2022 ECOM mtg minutes)	Christine P.	OPEN
Migrate outdated SharePoint documents into archive folder	Chairs	OPEN

AMC WORCESTER CHAPTER
Executive Committee Calendar: 2022- 2023

Date	Day	Meeting
11/30/22	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
5/31/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
6/2-4/23	Friday - Sunday	AMC Chapters Retreat – Harriman Outdoor Center
6/28/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
Summer Break		
9/27/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
9/30/23	Saturday	Fall Fest
10/25/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting
11/11/23 5p-10p	Saturday	Annual Meeting & Social
11/29/23	Wednesday	EC Meeting

AMC WORCESTER CHAPTER
Executive Committee Attendance: 4/26/23

Position	Name	Attended in person	Attended virtually	Absent
Chair	Chris Pignatiello	X		
Vice Chair	Wendy Dziemian	X		
Past Chair	Kim Beauchemin	X		
Secretary	Carol Warren	X		
Treasurer	Jose Schroen		X	
Social Media (at large)	Karyn Marciniac			
Biking Chair	Eric Fung		X	
Communications Co Chair	Nancy Cahn			X
Communications Co Chair	open			N/A
Conservation Chair	Eric Harris	X		
Families Chair	Cheri Mitchell			X
Finance Chair	Christine Crepeault	X		
Hiking Chair	Debi Garlick		X	
Historian	Dave Laska			X
Leadership Chair	Donald Davies	X		
Membership Chair	Kathryn Acciari	X		
Midstate Trail	Mike Peckar	X		
Paddling Chair	David Elliott			X
Skiing Chair	Ruth Langh		X	
Social Chair	Vanessa Butler		X	
Climbing Chair	David Brainard			X
Third Wednesdays	Erin Dolittle			X
Trails Chair	Steve Crowe	X		
DEI Chair	Ladda "Bug" Kosaketh			X
20s and 30s Chair	Zenya Molnar	X		
Outreach Chair	Alex Molnar	X		
Programs Chair	open			N/A
Chapter Members/Guests	Name	Attended in person	Attended virtually	
Former Chair	Joe Massery	X		
AMC	Meighan Matthews	X		
RD	Charlie Arsenault	X		
Healing Waters	Bill Manser	X		
Healing Waters Participant	Joe Mahan	X		
Healing Waters Participant	Joe Young	X		
Former Board Member	Shalin Deshia	X		

AMC Worcester is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Meeting
Join Zoom

Meeting <https://outdoors.zoom.us/j/2358136261?pwd=WWZta25LbXFoaVRKVmhQSi9DVU96Zz09> Meeting ID: 235
813 6261

Passcode: 1918100

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