

NH AMC Excom Meeting Minutes 4/2/2020

Date: 4/2/2020

Location: via Zoom

Executive Committee Members Attending

Officers

Chair	Rick Silverberg X
Vice Chair	Jim Kent X
Treasurer	Kerry Landry X
Secretary	Debbie Marcus X

Committee Chairs

Bike	Hiel Lindquist X
Communications	Christina Cozzens X Jen Kimball X
Conserv/Educ	Paul Hopkins X
Excursions	Larry Yetter X Dan Heon X
Membership	Jamie Gillon X
Mountaineering	Kathleen Upton X Ben Greene

Newsletter Bob McLaughlin **X**

Paddling Robin Diamond **X**
Roscoe Diamond **X**
Paul Berry **X**

Ski Paul Pinkham
Valerio Viti **X**
Thor Smith **X**

Trails Richie Holstein **X**
Bill Foster

Website Stephanie Howes **X**
Paul Berry **X**

20's & 30's Jamie Cullinane

Ex Officio

Past Chair Frank Miller **X**
Reg Dir North John Mullens **X**

Guests Hannah Hergenrather AMC

Call to Order 7:05 pm

Rick called the Zoom meeting to order and a roll call was taken of the Zoom meeting participants.

Minutes of 3/5/2020

The Minutes for the meeting held 3/5/2020 had been provided electronically. Richie had requested that the line concerning the Trails work “to be held in conjunction with Spring School” be removed, as the Trails work is an offering of Spring School. A motion to approve the Minutes with this change was made, seconded, and approved.

Monthly Financial Statement

Kerry spoke about the Chapter financials. She has reconciled the Jan 2020 and Feb 2020 statements. The checking balance is \$37,202.03 and there is \$2000 in PayPal. There have been a couple of refunds in progress due to cancelled events. A “budget to actual” report was not prepared because due to the Covid-19 response, the Chapter is not spending or collecting revenue.

Rick advised we would hold off approving the monthly financial statement until the meeting in May. Kerry indicated she had requested the transfer of funds from AMC reserves for the Chapter’s Rumney Rocks donation, but has not heard back from AMC. The donation to the Access Fund/Rumney Rocks project has not yet been fulfilled.

Discussion ensued about the COVID-19 impacts on the 2020 Chapter budget. Larry pointed out that several activities have been cancelled (Family Group, for example). We won’t spend all that we budgeted for in 2020, as several events are cancelled and will not be rescheduled.

2019 Audit (Old Business, or OB)

Kerry reported that all of our Chapter audits passed. The Club has not communicated specific amounts to be sent to invested

cash reserves. John M has reached out to AMC to find out AMC-NH's current balance of invested cash reserves. He will report. (John received some information from his contact during the meeting, but his connectivity during the meeting was interrupted.) Rick reached out to the Access Fund to alert them to the check delay.

Any new Proposals for Spending Chapter Reserves (OB)

Rick asked about any other ideas for use of the Chapter reserves. Valerio asked about a previously proposed \$500 donation for equipment for a search and rescue service. Kerry reiterated the issues the Chapter has when donating funds to another non-profit outside of AMC. It is possible, but requires AMC approval. Excom members will review.

Rick disclosed that Richie has been following up on the proposed Trails initiative for the handicapped accessible trail at Cardigan. We may hear more about this next month.

Further Discussion of Excom Subsidized Events (OB)

Rick asked if any other committees, besides Hut Night, had events which could be considered for this budgeted money. Roscoe indicated that Paddling could not make the usual Nubble Bay reservations due to the Covid-19 conditions and with no lead time to plan and publicize the annual trip, it will likely be cancelled for 2020.

Website Update (OB)

Stephanie and Paul weighed in on the roll-out of the new website and its management. Rick will assist Stephanie in setting

up a Zoom meeting to instruct committees in the use of WordPress so they may edit their own committee's pages. Larry asked about concerns which are not text but structural: how different events such as Winter Hiking Series, Winter and Spring schools, and other educational activities are presented. Stephanie said it is possible to make changes to the hierarchy of events and their timing as the calendar advances. Stephanie will also schedule a Zoom meeting with interested committees such as Paddling, Excursions, and others to address structural concerns. She can also take folks' concerns via email. Concerning Leader Lists, Stephanie maintains that it is very hard to accurately maintain Leader lists. It was suggested that Facebook be utilized to maintain Leader lists and accompanying photos. Bob McL asked about the archiving of old newsletters. Stephanie will provide Bob with instructions on how to upload them. Concerning the old website's use of an "asknh" email, Stephanie would prefer use of a webform tool for the public to use so that personal emails do not show up on screen. She will set that up. Committees with edits can always email Stephanie directly. Rick encouraged everyone to review the website and give feedback.

Valerio brought up the issue of linking our website to the Club activity database. Stephanie agrees that sharing the activity calendar across sites should be easy, but it is not. A 'plug-in' is required. Rick said that all Chapters have requested the ability to do this. Apparently the Maine Chapter has found some way to produce a link. We can find out how from them. AMC representative Hannah said it is not the Club's priority to do this, as there are other higher priority issues with the Club's website.

Stephanie said that it makes it hard to be a volunteer leader if the Club will not make the activity database easily available on Chapters' websites.

Response to Covid-19 (New Business, or NB)

Rick and Jamie talked about NH Wild Day. This event has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled for 2020.

Spring School has been rescheduled for Oct 30-Nov 1 2020. It will be "Fall School".

AMC's Chapters' Retreat (5/15-5/17) has been cancelled and will likely be replaced with a Zoom session.

Rick asked that the conservation committee's recommended letter writing campaign to send communications to elected officials be put on hold until after Covid-19 issues have subsided. Paul H has material planned for the next newsletter on this topic, as well recognition of Earth Day 2020.

Succession Planning (NB)

Jim reported on the Mountaineering Committee and work undertaken to reestablish leadership in that committee. A 4/18/2020 Zoom meeting will be held.

Rick emphasized that all committees should take steps for internally addressing succession planning for emergencies as well as routine changes.

Jim spoke for several minutes about his health concerns, the serious back problems he has experienced for 2 years, and the need for further treatments. He regretfully announced he will resign as Vice Chair on May 1, 2020. This life event "trumps what he'd like to do". We all wish Jim well.

Rick announced the Chapter's need to recruit a Vice Chair. It is difficult to expect that a VC can effectively jump immediately to Chair in just a couple of months. Rick is investigating whether he can remain as Chair for another year, and Frank will assist a newly recruited VC in getting up to speed quickly.

Frank also reported that the Programs recruit he had in mind is no longer able to do this.

Volunteer-led Activities and Planning During Covid-19 (NB)

Dan asked about the posting of activities by the Club in the May/June 2020 timeframe. The AMC activities database shows April 2020 trips as "cancelled", but May and June activities are still showing. He seeks Club guidance on this. John M said the Club is working on a process for when volunteer-led activities can resume. This will involve the states' and governors' responses to COVID-19 conditions.

NH-AMC & Engaging the Public During Covid-19 (NB)

Communications will work on engaging people online with ways to get outside in their neighborhoods. If anyone has "throwback photos", they can send them to Communications. Also useful: backyard bird identification, tree identification, nature in your own backyard themed items.

May 2020 Meeting

The next Excom meeting will be May 7, 2020, likely held via Zoom.

Adjourned 8:41 pm

