

NH AMC Excom Meeting 3/5/2020

Date: March 5, 2020

**Location: Society for Preservation of NH Forests, Concord,
NH**

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
Communications	Christina Cozzens Jen Kimball
Conserv/Educ	Paul Hopkins X
Excursions	Larry Yetter X Dan Heon
Membership	Jamie Gillon X
Mountaineering	Kathleen Upton
Newsletter	Bob McLaughlin

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

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

Trails Richie Holstein **X**
 Bill Foster **X**

Website Stephanie Howes
 Paul Berry

20's & 30's Jamie Cullinane

Ex Officio

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

Guests

 Hannah Hergenrather AMC Vol Rel **X** Tom
 Sintros acting Co-Chair **X** Mountaineering

Call to Order. 6:55 pm

Rick called the meeting to order, and Hannah Hergenrather, AMC Volunteer Relations Manager was introduced to the group. Tom Sintros also was in attendance as a representative of Mountaineering.

The Minutes of the 2/6/2020 meeting were made available previously. Larry moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Frank. It was unanimously voted to approve the 2/6/2020 Minutes.

Kerry explained that the bank statement had not been available as of 3/5/2020, so she could not report on the bank reconciliation, as normal. She announced that the chapter Audit was completed and accepted by the Club. She congratulated Excursions and Paddling as having their audits completed and approved by the Club, as well. Kerry looks to develop further improvements to the budget sheets and Quickbooks to track participant revenues vs. activity/event expenses to track the “success” of activities/events. Per Rick’s request, Kerry asserted that the Chapter has sufficient funds in cash reserves to fund the items up for immediate discussion.

Rick opened up the Rumney Rocks donation proposal for discussion. Several informational supporting materials on the Rumney Rocks Restoration project had been emailed to Excom personnel. Tom Sintros, representing Mountaineering, reviewed the project scope, describing the restoration needs of the “premier sport-climbing destination in the entire northeast.” A potential donation to the project would be made to the Access Fund, a national organization which supports regional climbing associations nationwide. They raise funds, work with climbing associations, survey needs at climbing locations, and partner with conservation groups on issues and related concerns. The Access Fund is the approved recipient of any NH AMC donation (and any other AMC chapters’ contributions). Rick explained that AMC has approved this because tax laws make it favorable to pay donations for this project through the Access Fund. The USFS

has written the Rumney Rocks project into its Master Plan, a worthy step in the process. Tom emphasized this is a high profile project for which the Access Fund will generate publicity, including partnership with AMC. Frank emphasized that it is clear that funds donated to this project will directly benefit NH citizens. The site is widely used by NH people. Tom expanded on this topic: rock-climbing is a growing activity with young people through rock gyms, high school and college groups, etc. Questions from Roscoe and others about the chapter cash reserves were handled by Kerry and Rick. Bottom line: the chapter had the funds at year end 2019, and continues to have the funds in cash reserves to complete a donation. Robin entered a Motion (previously tabled in December) to approve a \$10,000 contribution to the Access Fund for the Rumney Rocks Restoration Project. Frank seconded. Discussion followed. Frank amended the Motion to \$15,000. Discussion continued. Larry asked Tom about the Hanging Mtn project; Tom thinks the Western MA Climbing Assn may be all set with funding for improvements to that location, so likely will not be asking AMC for funding at this time. **Motion to send \$15,000 to the Access Fund for the Rumney Rocks Restoration Project passed unanimously.**

Jim announced an organizational meeting for Mountaineering to be held in mid April. He is reaching out to committee names to find out who is still involved or not. He will report back at the May Excom meeting.

Regarding the Cardigan handicapped accessibility trail, Rick had a contact for Richie and Bill to get an estimate: an expert who designed the Crotched Mtn handicapped accessible trails. They will follow up on that contact.

Robin and Roscoe reported on the Paddling Interchapter meeting of 3/4/2020. Discussion centered on getting together “seed money” for unspecified projects. (They reported that other chapters believe NH has plenty of extra cash to contribute.) Nothing concrete was discussed on 3/4/2020. Robin invited Excom members to let Paddling know of any NH waterways that need work, cleanups, etc.

Rick requested proposals from any other committees for use of Subsidized Funds for chapter events. Paddling noted that they could use this for their annual Nubble Bay trip. Rick requested a proposal and Paddling will write one.

Concerning the Website, Stephanie reported, via Rick, that the new website will go live on 3/5/2020. She requested that committees look at it and check out what’s working, what needs further attention, and so forth. All concerns should be reported to Stephanie. Stephanie will ultimately restore the ability for committees to edit and update their own pages. Kerry asked about the old “store” and how a paypal or other payment system will function. Stephanie, via Rick, says a new system will be used: having a new system compatible with the website is the key. A Zoom meeting will be scheduled on this topic for the committees who will use this. Rick mentioned concern about the Spring School promotion and registration. Unfortunately the NH Spring School was excluded from the AMC Outdoors future activity site after multiple requests to list it.

Jamie spoke about NH Wild day Saturday April 18, 2020. AMC-NH has a spot reserved. We will offer similar activities and materials as past NH Wild days: Trail Tools quiz, tents for kids to explore, kayaks or canoes, hand outs re kid-friendly NH hikes. The Communications Committee should look into the photo board

again, as it was popular in 2019. Hannah from AMC will see if there are any bulk stickers, give-aways, or such available.

Paul H talked about Conservation and getting ready for Earth Day 2020. He provided a handout from the Club re ways to send messages to elected officials. Specific instructions were also given on how to post messages to the Club's Conservation Action Network. The Club has an organized theme for Earth Day 2020: transportation and climate change initiatives. Paul reminded us that NH lawmakers and state executive officials **do want to know what constituents want done and it does make an impact.**

Rick reported that several volunteers have stepped up to form the 100th Anniversary Committee. The chapter is seeking representatives from each committee to schedule events and find ways to mark our 100th Anniversary in 2021. Kick-Off for the year will begin at the 2020 Annual Meeting. The chapter is still seeking a Programs Chair. Debbie will circulate the Programs "job description" she has written up.

John Mullens announced the annual Chapters Retreat will be at the Harriman Center in NY 5/15-5/17. The agenda is not yet set. Chapters' 2020 goals appear to have a lot of overlap, so this will drive the agenda. Conservation is a prime topic. The Coronavirus/ Covid-19 may become a hot topic.

Larry expressed a major concern which arose at the Annual Summit in January 2020. He feels John Judge does not respect chapter volunteers as primary sources for Leadership and outdoor education. Judge promotes the AMC paid staff, "AMC guides" and their activities ahead of recognizing chapter-led activities. John Mullens says this has been a concern before about Judge. John believes at the Annual Summit Judge was mostly focused on corporate staff and their revenue-producing activities, not

volunteer-led excursions. This was misinterpreted in the way it came across as disrespectful of the highly trained volunteers from chapters such as NH. He will bring our chapter's concern on this issue to Judge's attention.

The Paddling Committee updated Excom on their planning for the upcoming season. They successfully used a Zoom committee meeting to engage many more to attend electronically. The Nubble Bay trip is scheduled. A new member paddle with cookout will be held. A Northern NH Paddlers subcommittee was established.

Membership reported that the next New Member Mixer will be April 7 at Hermano's in Concord, NH This event will focus on Adventure Travel.

Excursions reported that Spring School will be 5/1/2020-5/3/2020. There is an Excursions trip planning meeting coming up for Leaders to plan trips and mentor Leader-Candidates. Family Group seeks Leaders for increased activities.

Ski reports they still have a few trips left, as winter winds down.

The next Excom Meeting will be Thursday April 2, 2020 at the Holiday Inn on Brown Ave in Manchester. Food by Trails.

Motion to adjourn made by several, seconded, and so voted. Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

