

Appalachian Mountain Club – Mohawk Hudson Chapter
April 7, 2014 General Meeting - Christ Lutheran Church, Albany
Meeting notes

Chair Mary Folsom opened the meeting at approximately 7pm after participants had enjoyed a potluck dinner.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the January 1st quarterly meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Sharon Bonk reported that there has not been much Chapter financial activity yet; the budget situation remains broadly the same as reported at the January 1st meeting. The Chapter has not yet received the grant funds awarded by the Club for leadership training expenses.

Vice-chair's report

Vice Chair Kevin Cox presented prior Chair Arthur Fontijn with a folding chair award!

Committee Chair Reports

Outings

Kevin Cox reported that the Chapter now has two outing leaders in training. Extra funds have been approved to support leader training. Leaders are being encouraged to brush up on wilderness first aid, and the Chapter will cover related expenses. Randy has trips scheduled for Vermont (June) and Maine (September). HARP hikes are not listed on-line; notifications are available only via email. May 13th will be the deadline for providing Kevin with outing information for July and August. Mary thanked Kevin, Sharon, and John Tiffit for their work as the Outings Committee.

Mary discussed the Chapter fall retreat, which will take place at Lake Taghkanic State Park in September. Sign-up will be encouraged in May and June. The venue will provide opportunities for many activities in the park and nearby. The Committee to help plan the 2015 Fall Gathering met last week. Mary thanked Gerry Weber and Enny Dufur for sharing their experience in organizing a prior Club fall gathering for the Chapter. The Committee will visit Camp Chingachgook next week to take a look at the site chosen for the event.

Program

Kathleen Helfrich noted that the next Chapter general meeting will take place on July 24th at Peebles Island State Park. The Chapter annual meeting will be held at Schenectady Community College on November 17th. Kathleen encouraged meeting participants to sign up to assist with organizing Chapter program events.

Trails

John Tiffit acknowledged that there are quite a few a few trail work projects scheduled, and invited member participation, noting that roles are available for all skill levels. Pending projects include one to assist Albany Underground Railway organization install a path on their property. Chapter members have been invited to attend an open house, which this organization has scheduled for April 13th.

Website

Mary indicated that Jeff Carden was not able to attend the meeting, but showed everyone a picture appearing in a recent newsletter of the Rennselear Land Trust of Jeff assisting that group with a clean-up project.

Western Slope

Chris Boucher reported that an email 'blast' has been sent out to Chapter members.

Membership

Martha Waldman reported that current Chapter membership is up a bit, including 26 new members from January. Mary congratulated Martha Waldman and Cliff Prewencki for recently completing all hikes required for a Catskill '35' high peaks award.

Martha won the evening's 50/50 raffle, and donated her winnings to the Chapter.

Conservation

Mary noted that an opening remains for someone to take over as Chapter Conservation Chair. Within the overall parameters of Club conservation policy, there is a lot of room for the Conservation Chair to decide where to focus.

Mary acknowledged Nancy Crowther's work in following up on new member interests in order to encourage their participation in Chapter and Club activities.

After the business meeting, participants enjoyed a fascinating presentation by Herb Tern and Gillian Scott about their trip to Norway last summer. The meeting concluded at approximately 8pm.