

**Narragansett Chapter Board Meeting**

January 13, 2015

235 Promenade St . Providence, RI

**Call to Order – 6:00**

**Attendance**: Bob Tessitore, Tom Eagan, Mike Krabach, Chris Shafer, Linda Pease, Debra Huntington, Steve Harrington, Dav Cramer, Russ Miller, Joe Vaglio, Bill Rafferty

Ken Hamel -

**Minutes -** The minutes for the meeting approved as written.

**Treasurer’s Report** was reviewed and approved

**Business Meeting:**

Bob introduced Joe Vaglio from the climbing committee. Joe explained that the climbing group is looking for financial assistance for two people to attend a climbing training course in training climbers. The courses are $525 per attendee. They would like to send two people. Additional costs include $80 per year for membership and the AMGA (American Mtn. Guide Association) certification. The attendees would cover these expenses on their own. Tom asked if the rock-climbing group has funds of it own. They have had money in the checking account.

A motion was made that upon review of the climbing subcommittee budget the chapter will provide funds to cover the training.

**Chapter Vice-Chair** – Russ Miller was nominated for Vice Chair. An email vote will be taken.

**AMC Eastern Regional Director** - Tom Eagan (former Narragansett board member) updated the board on the recent AMC Chapters committee meeting. The committee consists of representative(s) from all chapters. Some of the topics that Tom briefed the board on were:

* Webpage and online trip reporting - A committee that has been formed to look into the viability of online trip reporting. The AMC website has been updated. Joy St. is looking into hosting chapter’s websites on their website. The committee will look into the viability and report back to chapters the costs and benefits.
* A capital campaign is kicking off to upgrade trails and lodges. There is also a campaign to upgrade facilities and trails in the NY area.
* Expanding AMC’s membership and reach into the NY state.
* Initiative to get kids outdoors. This is part of the club’s vision.
* Conservation efforts.
* Open discussion on how to improve diversity, not only ethnically but age.

Tom also commented that there was a discussion of chapter’s working reserves funds. He will be attending a meeting with the other regional directors to discuss working reserves and how to utilize these funds and provide guidance to the chapters. Bill asked if Joy St. would change the dues allocation per membership. Tom did not believe that this is in going to happen.

**Operating Reserve** – Bill handed out an updated policy on the operating reserve. Bill commented that a reserve of $30,000 is too high. Tom commented that the reserve amount is up to the chapter. There was a discussion on how the money should be spent. Tom discussed that chapters need to have a long term strategic view, this would help the chapter to understand what the financial needs will be in the future.

Top challenges for chapter – growing memberships, growing and keeping leaders. A point was made that the chapter could develop a strategic plan, which would then help to determine financial needs.

Money should be spent responsibly and prudently aligning with the chapter’s goals.

There was a question as to whether there is a need to have an operating reserve in the investment account. There was much discussion about this. There was motion to keep $20,000 of the investment fund as operating reserve. These funds would be used in case of an emergency. The board will approve any expenditure from the reserve.

**2016 Fall Gathering** - Bob discussed the time line that Joy St. provided. The event is scheduled for the third weekend in Oct. 2016, 10/16/16.

Bob has approached a couple of people to be on the committee and has had positive response from some. Bob asked for the board members to send in suggestions on who may be interested in participating on the planning committee.

**Annual Dinner** – Speaker – Based on last month’s discussion regarding a speaker the interest is in a recreational speaker versus an education speaker. Bob will send out the speaker list that Joy St put together to the board.

**Leader Review** – Chris reported about his discussions with Joy St. regarding leadership. He was sent a complaint process that has been used by the Boston Chapter’s Young Membership. He will send this to the board via email for review.

**Committee Reports**

**Trails** – they are in the process of planning their March meeting. Woods River will be the next major project.

**Paddling** – planning meeting coming up.

**Web** – Mike will be participate in a conference call on the new AMC website. One of the topics will be hosting the website. AMC wants to promote branding among the different chapter websites.

**Communications** – Bob asked why the picture of our chapter in the Outdoor magazine was of Mt Washington. Mike has sent pictures but they are not used. Mike will follow-up.

**Local hiking –** Planning meeting is scheduled for meeting on 3/16.

**Northern Hiking** - Planning will be held in April

**Climbing –** Climbing has two new events scheduled.

**Skiing** – Added a had a new skiing event to the schedule.

**Motion to adjourn – 7:56**