

November 6, 2013
Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter ADK
Minutes - Executive Committee Meeting
Carl R'S Restaurant, Queensbury

Present: Bill Bechtel; Maureen Coutant; Pat Desbiens; Laura Fiske; Jill Gruben; Sarah King; Steve Mackey; Wayne Richter; George Sammons; Jim Schneider

Minutes, October 2, 2013 Meeting: Due to the lack of a voting quorum, approval of the Minutes was tabled until the December Executive Committee meeting.

Treasurer's Report: No report, due to absence of the Treasurer.

Chapter Chair - Laura Fiske

Annual Dinner Feedback: Both food and venue received good ratings. Due to a lack of communication, the programs did not get printed and the video did not get shown during the social hour due to a lack of equipment. Discussion occurred as to whether going forward, programs are necessary since those in attendance did not seem to miss them. Discussion also occurred as to whether a formal presentation is necessary at the dinner - have the event be dinner and recognition of the contributions of Chapter members. Negative comments were: disappointment that Neil Woodworth did not attend; small portions of food that were being served and opinion that the program was not relevant to the audience.

Project Management Tool: Laura Fiske put forth for consideration adopting an online project management tool to help avoid the type of problems experienced this past year, i.e., annual dinner and annual nominations. This would be a free application that Jonathan Lane previously demonstrated to the Ex. Comm. No action taken due to the lack of a voting quorum.

Victorian Stroll - Saratoga Springs: Gretchen Steen organizing. Event scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2013 from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Anyone interested in volunteering for this event or to make gorp should contact Gretchen. Gorp can be brought to the December Executive Committee Meeting on December 4 or dropped off at the Chapter table the evening of the Stroll.

December Executive Committee Meeting: Scheduled for December 4 at the Wesley in Saratoga. A potluck dinner will precede the meeting. Laura Fiske and George Sammons will work together to determine the best method for signing up for the potluck.

SUNY ADK Students: An e-mail was sent to the Chapter by ADK Membership Chair, Laurie Schweighardt, asking if the Glens Falls/Saratoga Chapter would be interested in "sponsoring" a couple of needy SUNY college students interested in hiking for student memberships in ADK. The e-mail also made mention of an Educational Affiliate Program whereby the college would pay for the memberships. Deb Zack responded to Laurie's e-mail noting that there is a ROCX program in place at SUNY and providing contact information. Laura will follow-up with Laurie Schweighardt as to whether our Chapter needs to discuss this matter further. Item tabled pending further discussion with ADK.

Ragnar Relay: A check should be coming shortly - once received, ADK calendars will be purchased and given to Chapter members who volunteered their time at the Relay.

January Executive Committee Meeting: Due to the New Year's holiday, the January Executive Committee Meeting has been re-scheduled to Wednesday, January 8, 2014. Laura will secure Carl R's for the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Wilderness - Jim Schneider - The Pharaoh Lake Wilderness is in great shape. The Backcountry Stewardship Program is having a positive impact on the cleanliness of the area.

Outings - Wayne Richter

- Leader Recognition: Outing leaders were recognized at the Annual Dinner. The Chapter has 30 outing leaders who lead a total of 179 outings this past year. Leaders will be contacted and asked to either update or submit bios for the website.
- Group Size Limits: ADK Policy A-19 cites a group size limit of 15; the ADK Guidelines for Chapter Outing Leaders "Taking a Hike" cites a group size limit of 12. Wayne questioned the difference in numbers and wondered if there should be consistency in group size limits. The opinion of those present was that 15 is generally looked at as being the maximum number since that number is the guideline for groups going to the High Peaks area. Larger groups, especially with co-leaders, have been signed up for some outings.
- Liability Forms: A reminder will be sent to Outing Leaders to send completed liability forms to the Outings Chair.
- Dogs on Outings: Wayne felt that we should stay status quo with the policy decision made in 2008 regarding this issue. Those present were in agreement.
- Adding Outings Between Newsletter Publication Dates: George periodically monitors outings and adds any new ones to the website. Wayne will notify leaders to add any trips before the end of the month. Trips should be submitted to the Outings Chair for approval and then they will be added to the website with the word "New" in the description.
- Miscellaneous: 1) Discuss the possibility of having a leaders' forum on the website; 2) Wayne will poll leaders regarding allowing teens without parents/guardians on hikes; 3) Try to schedule a face-to-face meeting of hike leaders; 4) On-line fill-in form for contacting outing leaders - question whether to pursue further, more information will be obtained from Jonathan Lane.

Newsletter - Jill Gruben - the deadline for the next newsletter is December 1, 2013.

Programs - Sarah King - There are still 3 program slots to fill for 2014. Four possibilities for future program were put forth for committee input as follows: Program on an electric car with program geared to the environmental impact of electric cars (committee felt this would need to be coupled with another short program on the same evening); presentation by Don Behrens on Mt. Kilimanjaro; a program on bats by Al Hicks; a slide show by Peter Fedorick.

Past Chapter Chair Report - Maureen Coutant

- Annual Dinner: Expenses came in well within budget.
- October Headquarters Workday: Good turnout of Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter members, who participated in projects such as raking leaves, painting and staining.

Membership - Pat Desbiens - For the month of September the chapter was a +19 for new members.

- EMS "Upgrade Your Gear" Days: Obtained four new memberships at this event. Pat expressed appreciation to Tim & Kathi Noble; Margie Litwin and Bill Carpenter for their assistance with this event. Suggestion was made and agreed upon to recognize the Membership Volunteers at the annual dinner each year.

There being no further business to discuss, Jim Schneider made a motion - seconded by Wayne Richter that the meeting be adjourned. So moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Desbiens for John Caffry, Secretary

Next Meeting: December 4 at the Wesley in Saratoga.