

**Minutes of the May 7, 2014 Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club,
Inc., held at Queensbury, New York, at Carl R's Restaurant**

Present: Jacki Bave, John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Pat Desbiens, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Jill Gruben, Kerri Healy, Sarah King, Linda Ranado, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. Also present: Adam Rubinstein and Anne Paolano.

Chapter Chair Laura Fiske opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes of the March 2014 meeting were corrected to remove Wayne Richter from the attendees at the Firetower Challenge meeting, and as corrected, were unanimously approved, together with the minutes of the April 2014 meeting, on a motion by Linda Ranado, seconded by Kerri Healy.

In the absence of Treasurer Steve Mackey, **Mo Coutant** presented the January to April 2014 **Treasurer's Report**. Dues were received from the Club in all four months, and the balance is \$9,716. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Linda Ranado, seconded by Wayne Richter. Steve will be away for 5 months hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, and Mo will cover for him in his absence.

Laura Fiske led a discussion of **amendments to the by-laws**. She reported that the elimination of the Annual Dinner Committee would go to the members for approval at the Annual Meeting. **John Caffry** presented a proposal to amend the quorum requirements (attached) to clarify that vacant positions do not count towards determining the presence of a quorum. A motion by Jacki Bave, seconded by Mo Coutant, to recommend to the members that this amendment be approved passed unanimously. John also suggested that amendments could be adopted to allow the Ex. Comm. to vote by e-mail and conference call, subject to certain conditions. This was tabled and John will prepare proposed amendments for consideration at the June meeting.

Laura reported that the New York Non-profit Revitalization Act did not apply to the Chapter, because it is not a corporation. The Act does apply to the main Club. Kerri Healy suggested adding an audit committee, but the Chapter already has an ad hoc committee to do this. Laura has added the 2007 amendments to the on-line version of the By-laws. The 2014 amendments will be added if they are approved by the members later this year.

Anne Paolano reported on the planning for the **Annual Dinner**. She visited the Wishing Well restaurant near Saratoga and it looks suitable. She passed around copies of the menu. The price will be \$30, including tip. It was unanimously agreed to hold the event there, and Anne will reserve it for October 24, 2014. Ideas for the program were discussed.

Vice Chair Kerri Healy, as Chair of the **Nominations Committee**, reported that she is seeking members for that committee. She also reported that she will have to leave the Ex. Comm. at the end of the year, so the committee is seeking two vice-chairs and directors. Laura said that she has one more year of eligibility as Chapter Chair, and will continue to serve if nobody with experience can be found to take the position next year.

Laura gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. The Club is looking for assistance with the **Black Fly Affair**. Mo will try to find an artist to decorate a model horse to be auctioned off. If she can't, the Chapter will donate \$200. This was approved unanimously on a motion by John Caffry, seconded by Tom Ellis. Laura participated in a conference call with **Club President John Gilewicz** and other chapter chairs. He discussed his goals for the Club, including uniting the main Club and the chapters, and increasing membership numbers and diversity, especially among young people.

Trails Committee Chair Tom Ellis reported that the trailwork on Tongue Mountain has been done, but that he will have to go back later to finish it. He handed out old trail markers that he had removed from a recently closed trail.

Membership Committee Chair Pat Desbiens reported that membership was a net +0 for March. The Chapter has 1,356 families and 2,271 total members. She also reported that EMS will no longer allow its stores to allow non-profits to have tables at its Club Days events.

Newsletter Committee Chair Jill Gruben reported that June 1st is the next newsletter deadline.

Programs Chair Sarah King handed out the schedule of upcoming programs. They are all set through January 2015 and she has ideas for February through May.

Mo Coutant discussed the Club HQ workday that took place in April.

Education Chair Linda Ranado reported that, as authorized at the prior meeting, the Chapter has sponsored an additional camper from DEC's waiting list. The total for 2014 is 8 campers. She presented at the Glens Falls Y's Healthy Kids Day again, but it was poorly run and she won't do it again. She may do it at the Saratoga Y instead. She will present at the Moreau Lake State Park Conservation Day in May.

Vice Chair Kerri Healy reported that she will post the new mobile app. for the Chapter Website on the Chapter's social media pages.

Wilderness Chair Jim Schneider reported that he has submitted his report to the Club for its annual Adopt-a-Wildlands report, which John Caffry has sent to the Ex. Comm. members. The Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area is in great shape, but the upcoming spring season is when a lot of trash is dumped and damage occurs because the DEC seasonal staff is not yet present. The **Firetower Challenge** book update is being held up at the Club level due to a lack of staff. He got all of the old completer letters from Jack Freeman and will work on archiving them.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter reported that he has a full schedule of outings coming up.

Secretary John Caffry reported that he paid the overdue bill for the **P.O. box** and had the account changed to his name. The previous contact person on the account was Roger Reinecker, who was Chapter Chair at least two decades ago.

Website Chair George Sammons reported that he has updated the website to make it more mobile-friendly. Kerri said that it works well. George reported that the Firetower Challenge gets a lot of traffic on the website, and that he has linked it to the Hadley Mountain Firetower website.

Conservation Chair Jacki Bave reported that she went to the Earth Day Lobby Day at the state Capitol with ADK and other groups. The City of Saratoga Springs and local groups have proposed a 24 mile “Saratoga Greenbelt Trail” around the city. It would connect to other trails in the area.

Laura Fiske reported that Jonathan Lane had again raised the perennial issue of **dogs on outings**. She said that the September 2008 minutes show what the Ex. Comm. previously voted to do, which Pat read aloud. There is also a discussion in the September 2013 minutes. Wayne said that he plans to put the policy in the outings leaders handbook. There was a debate on whether to change the policy. Jill made a motion, which was seconded by Kerri, to change the policy to allow leaders to bring their dog on outings that are not designated “dog hikes” if they publicize this in advance. The motion passed by a vote of 10 to 5. John made a motion to require that all dogs, including leaders’ dogs, on all outings must be on a leash. The motion was seconded by Wayne and approved. John will write up the new policy. When it is completed, it will be distributed to all leaders and posted on the website.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Gretchen Steen, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – June 4, 7:00, at the Wesley in Saratoga (Secretary’s note: now scheduled for June 18th).