

**Minutes of the November 5, 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, Sarah King, Steve Mackey, Linda Ranado, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. Also present: Anne Paolano.

In the absence of the Chapter Chair and Vice-Chair, **Treasurer Steve Mackey** chaired the meeting, which he opened at 7:11 p.m.

An e-mail report from **Chair Laura Fiske** stated that at the **Annual Meeting**, the by-laws amendments all passed and the nominated slate of officers was elected by the members.

Secretary John Caffry reported that the October meeting minutes were not ready for review.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the October Treasurer's Report. The August dues payment from the Club was received. The major expenses were the Annual Dinner and postage and printing for the newsletter. Total assets are \$12,599, which is down about \$1,400 from last month. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Mo Coutant.

Annual Dinner Coordinator Anne Paolano reported on the event. The food was very good, including the hors d'oeuvres. The sound was poor in the back of the room. There were 79 people present, which was about the maximum capacity of the room. There were mixed reviews on the content of the program by Jim Bruchac. The Wishing Well has offered a \$200 discount if the Chapter returns next year.

Jim Schneider has discussed the status of the update to the **Firetower Challenge** book with Andrea Masters at the Club. He is also looking into integrating the Chapter's site with Rick Conlee's site and is working on the technical issues. The Club has given Rick a copy of the book. Jim has also found other firetower websites. Jim will work on this more and report back. There was also discussion of adding the Winter Firetower Challenge to the website and possibly linking to the Saranac 6-ers site also.

The **revised job descriptions** for the Membership Committee Chair, Outings Committee Chair and Programs Committee Chair were described by Pat Desbiens, Wayne Richter and Sarah King, respectively, and approved unanimously on a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Linda Ranado. Copies are attached to these minutes.

Hospitality Chair Gretchen Steen reported on plans for the Chapter's annual participation in the Saratoga Springs Victorian Stroll. She will cover this with volunteers, give away gorp, and distribute ADK information.

Steve gave the **Chair's Report**. He reported that the Club sent a request for assistance with its **online auction fundraiser**. No action was required and none was taken. The **potluck supper** at

the December meeting was discussed. George Sammons will set up a googledoc for people to sign up to bring food. Spouses, etc. are invited. The Club is offering to partially subsidize the cost of attendance for outings leaders to attend the annual **Winter Mountaineering School**. Outings Chair Wayne Richter will notify the Chapter's leaders. Wayne also discussed some potential volunteers for **vacant Executive Committee positions**.

Conservation Chair Jacki Bave reported that the Saratoga Greenway Trail has received a state grant; Friends of the Washington County Grassland will acquire a donated parcel of land and set up a winter raptor viewing site; the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan update is in the works and she will submit comments for the Chapter.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that in September membership was -1 from August. The Chapter is still second (behind Albany) in the number of households (1,346) and first in the number of total members (2,220) among ADK chapters.

Programs Chair Sarah King reported that all programs through May 2015 are booked. She may organize a joint program with Southern Adirondack Audubon.

Education Chair Linda Ranado said that she is looking for children for 2015 camperships.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter summarized his annual report, which is attached to these minutes. There are 23 leaders this year, and there were 173 Chapter outings from October 2013 to October 2014. He is still working on the policy on unaccompanied minors going on Chapter outings.

Wilderness Chair Jim Schneider reported that the Spruce Mountain firetower is still closed due to legal problems with the access. Protect the Adirondacks has reported on abuses of the wilderness regulations at the Crane Pond Road in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area – ADK may have to get involved in this issue again. Having the road remain open makes it easier for people to cause damage at the campsites.

John Caffry was authorized by the Committee to write a letter in opposition to the expansion of the Warren County Airport into the **Big Cedar Swamp**.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Gretchen Steen, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – December 3, 7:00, at the Wesley in Saratoga – potluck supper.