

**Minutes of the December 3, 2014 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., held at Saratoga
Springs, New York, in the Civalier Conference Room of the Wesley Health Center**

Present: Jacki Bave, John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Pat Desbiens, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Jill Gruben, Sarah King, Jonathan Lane, Steve Mackey, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. Also present: Kathi Noble, Aimee Rutledge, Heather Webb, Licia Mackey, and Irene Sammons.

Chapter Chair Laura Fiske opened the meeting at 7:27 p.m., following the traditional holiday potluck dinner for the Committee and guests. Laura introduced Aimee Rutledge and Heather Webb, who are considering getting more involved with the Chapter, and thanked outgoing Executive Committee members Bill Bechtel, Jonathan Lane, and Kerri Healy for their service to the Chapter. There was a round of applause for Bill, Jonathan and Kerri.

The minutes of the October and November 2014 meetings were approved unanimously on a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Pat Desbiens.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the November Treasurer's Report. The September dues payment was received from the Club. Payments included gifts for the outings leaders and renewal of the postal permit. Total assets are \$13,972, which is up \$5,400 for the year. John Caffry suggested that Steve send the budgeted annual \$5,000 donation to the Club, to be split equally among the Trails, Conservation and Education programs. Steve said that he would do so. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by John, seconded by Mo Coutant. [The donation was later modified. See discussion of ADK Winterfest during Chapter Chair's report below.]

Laura and Jonathan Lane led a discussion of the possibility of the Chapter selling **Firetower Challenge merchandise**. This could be done through CafePress, and once it was set up, there would be very little work for the Chapter to do. It is a print-on-demand service, there is no inventory to buy, and there are no set-up charges. The Club used to sell FTC merchandise, but no longer does so. Jonathan offered to help set it up and Mo agreed to be the contact person. Mo will look into sales tax issues and be sure that ADK would retain ownership of the images. She will report back in January. No formal action was taken.

FTC Correspondent Kathi Noble requested that Loon Mountain be added to the list on the website of qualifying towers. George Sammons said that he had added an article on the Winter FTC by Jim Schneider to the website. Laura said that some people have suggested giving the FTC completer patches to Club members at no charge. The usual charge is \$3.00. There was a discussion of the pros and cons of this idea and opinions were split. The question was tabled until such time as the FTC pamphlet needs to be reprinted.

Laura gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She said that Committee members should send any requests for changes to their budget lines to Steve Mackey, who will present the **2015 budget** next month. She said that she does not yet have the list of Chapter members who volunteered at the **Ragnar Relay**, and will look into ideas for gifts for the volunteers. Laura reported that the

ADK Winterfest will be held at Heart Lake in January and that the Club is looking for sponsors. On a motion by Jonathan, seconded by Steve Mackey, and unanimously approved, it was decided that \$200 of the \$5,000 gift to the Club will be reallocated to this purpose and the remaining \$4,800 will be divided equally among the three previously approved programs. Laura asked John Caffry to incorporate the recent amendments to the **By-laws and job descriptions** into the document so that the current versions can be posted to the website.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that membership was +12 in October.

Website Chair George Sammons discussed recent updates to the website that he had made.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter reported that the schedule for upcoming outings is done, and that he is still looking for a suitable medical authorization form so that the Chapter can allow unaccompanied minors to go on outings.

Programs Chair Sarah King reported that the programs through April are all set and she is looking for a May program.

Mo Coutant reported on the recent Club Headquarters workday.

Hospitality Chair Gretchen Steen reported that the preparations for Chapter's table at the Saratoga Springs Victorian Stroll are complete.

Outgoing **YMG Chair Jonathan Lane** reported that the Chapter's Facebook page has 278 likes and the YMG's page has 105. He said that someone needs to take over managing these pages. Laura said that Kerri Healy and Aimee Rutledge have volunteered to do so. Jonathan then read a letter to the Club Board of Directors and Chapter reflecting on ADK's future. A copy of the letter is appended to these minutes.

Outgoing **Newsletter Chair Jill Gruben** reported that the next newsletter is in the works.

Laura reported that **Aimee Rutledge** will work with Jacki Bave on the Conservation Committee, but will not be a member of the Executive Committee.

Conservation Chair Jacki Bave reported that she submitted a comment letter on behalf of the Chapter on the draft update to the New York State Open Space Conservation Plan. The letter supported existing land protection projects in the area, such as the Big Cedar Swamp, and recommended that several new projects be added, including that land at Mt. McGregor be added to Moreau Lake State Park, that privately-owned firetower mountains or access to them be acquired, and that the summit of Peaked Rock be added to the Battenkill State Forest. The Club's big push will be additional funding for the Environmental Protection Fund. She plans to work on gaining increased recreational access to the City of Glens Falls Watershed. A copy of Jacki's letter is appended to these minutes.

FTC Correspondent Kathi Noble reported on the year's activities. She is now trying to promote the Winter FTC more.

At 8:45 p.m. Laura requested an executive session. The non-voting guests left the room. A discussion of candidates for various Executive Committee positions was held.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Jim Schneider, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – January 7, 7:00, at Carl R's in Queensbury.