

**Minutes of the January 7, 2015 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, Pat Desbiens, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Sarah King, Steve Mackey, Linda Ranado, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Gretchen Steen, and Heather Webb. Also present: Kathi Noble and Tim Noble.

Chapter Chair Laura Fiske opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

The minutes of the December 2014 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Jacki Bave, seconded by Linda Ranado.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the 2014 year-end Treasurer's Report. He paid the \$5,000 donation to the main Club in December. The October dues payment was received from the Club. Net spending on the Annual Dinner was \$885. For the year, income was \$589 over budget and expenses were \$3,865 lower than budget. Year-end assets were \$9,417, a decrease of \$847, versus a budgeted decrease of \$1,515. The numbers don't quite match up due to the shifting of dues payments between years. The Club has not yet paid the Chapter its share of Ragnar Relay income. Laura requested that this be made a separate line item in the financial reports in the future. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Sarah King.

Steve presented the **draft 2015 budget**. All line items are the same as 2014. There was a discussion of adding money for volunteer recognition for the Membership Committee. The Outings Committee has a budget of \$300 for this. John Caffry suggested creating a separate line item for volunteer recognition for all committees by transferring that \$300 and adding a new \$200, and this was agreed to. Linda Ranado requested an additional \$350 for camperships for the Education Committee. Fifty dollars will be transferred from the Education budget and an additional \$300 will be added to the camperships line. Jim Schneider requested an increase of \$1,400 for the Firetower Challenge due to the upcoming reissuance of the book and the possible need to buy a new supply of patches. Sarah King suggested decreasing the Programs budget by \$200 because she never spends the entire \$500 budget. There was a discussion of reducing the Club donations but it was agreed to leave it as is, because it is always paid at the end of the year and can be adjusted then if needed. After a discussion of the special donations line, it was agreed to reduce it by \$100 and then decide next month which items to fund. The total of the adjustments to the draft budget was a net increase of \$1,600 in spending. John made a motion to approve the budget, as revised, Wayne Richter seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved. Steve will revise the document and distribute it.

Chapter Chair Laura Fiske discussed the **Executive Committee vacancies**. She has appointed Heather Webb as Chair of the **Younger Members Group**. Jen Sheperd will assist her. There are still vacancies for the Vice Chairs (2) and Directors (2), and the Publicity and Newsletter Chairs. Regarding the **Publicity Committee**, she said that Kerri, Aimee and Jen will be working on the Facebook pages, and asked if we still need to have a publicity chair. The position has been vacant for 2-3 years, but people still go on outings and go to programs. She asked whether, with

the website, we still need this. There was a suggestion that perhaps Sarah could send program write-ups directly to the newspapers. No action was taken. Regarding the **newsletter**, she said that two people have expressed interest in working on it as a paid position, but there have been no volunteers so far. George Sammons and Mo Coutant will produce the next edition in February. There was discussion of going back to having a paid production person and a volunteer editor. No action was taken. Linda suggested having the newsletter delivered by e-mail with an opt-in for mailed copies. No action was taken.

Programs Committee Chair Sarah King reported that the May program will be a joint program with Southern Adirondack Audubon on Costa Rica. The September program will be on raptors and she is working on the remaining fall programs.

Education Chair Linda Ranado reported that sign-ups for 2015 camperships are going well.

Firetower Challenge (“FTC”) Correspondent Kathi Noble reported that there were 41 FTC completers in 2014, including one winter completer and three children. Jim Schneider reported that Lyme Timber has agreed to allow access through its property for the Spruce Mountain tower, and that it should be open again in a couple of months. When that happens, this tower will again count towards the FTC. Currently, some of the FTC materials say it counts and some don't. It was agreed that, due to the confusion, it will be counted. Laura said that the agreement with Lyme Timber will be for a period of ten years, and that there will not be access during big game season.

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

Outings Chair Wayne Richter reported that he is still working on getting Club approval for medical authorization forms for unaccompanied minors on outings. Laura will follow up with E.D. Neil Woodworth.

Conservation Chair Jacki Bave reported that all of the Chapter's recommendations for the update to the State Open Space Plan had been included in the Club's comment letter. John gave her the name of a contact person at the City of Glens Falls regarding recreational use of the watershed lands.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that there was a net loss of 13 members in November.

Chapter Chair Laura Fiske said that she received a thank you letter from the Club for the Chapter's annual donation. She is responding to volunteer request forms as they come in and referring them to the appropriate committees.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Gretchen Steen, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John Caffry, Secretary