

Minutes of the February 4, 2015 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., held in Saratoga Springs, New York, at the Wesley Health Center

Present: Jacki Bave, Maureen Coutant, Pat Desbiens, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Steve Mackey, Linda Ranado, George Sammons, Gretchen Steen and Heather Webb. Also present: Aimee Rutledge.

Chapter Chair Laura Fiske opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes of the January meeting were unavailable, and so approval was tabled until the next meeting.

Treasurer Steve Mackey will e-mail the January Treasurer's Report upon its completion. Approval was tabled until the next meeting. At the request of Education Committee Chair Linda Ranado, additional funds were authorized for one additional DEC camper. Steve will assist Tim and Kathi Noble with fire tower patch orders. There was a discussion regarding the future allocation of Ragnar Relay funds. Possibilities included funding additional campers or contributing towards expenses to be incurred for the revision of the Fire Tower Challenge book and revised brochures.

Maureen Coutant supplied the Committee with information about Café Press. She showed us the website and examples of merchandise, and explained how the Chapter would design and set up a page of Fire Tower Challenge merchandise. She needs to obtain a high-resolution image of the fire tower logo and the ADK logo before proceeding.

Laura Fiske led a discussion regarding the special donations budget. Revisions were made, and a motion was made (Tom Ellis, Maureen Coutant) to approve the revised donations list. Motion carried. (*Laura will e-mail the revised list.*) A motion was made (Jacki Bave, Linda Ranado) to donate \$100 to the 507 Fund for Adirondack High Peaks Summit Stewardship Program. Motion carried.

Laura Fiske (for Wayne Richter) presented the Committee with a policy for minors on outings, as well as a release form and a form for authorization for emergency medical care. The release form was obtained from the Genessee Valley Chapter. Correction to policy, 3rd line of 4th paragraph was noted: change "participant" to "participate". A discussion followed regarding the policy procedure of the trip leader assigning two adults to monitor the minor during the hike. Laura will ask for clarification from Wayne Richter before the Committee votes on the policy.

Laura Fiske shared Winterfest brochures that contained recognition for the Chapter for our donation and a card of thanks from a member regarding the Chapter's newsletter.

Laura Fiske (for Jim Schneider) shared Jim's report that Spruce Mountain Fire Tower Trail access issues are being resolved. Jim has a Fire Tower Challenge article in the Jan-Feb issue of Chepontuc.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that the Chapter had 17 new members and 5 re-joined members, but that over all we were down 7 from November. Pat will set up a table for the Chapter at Raptorfest March 28 and 29.

Aimee Rutledge and Kerri Healy are maintaining the Chapter's Facebook page. They are posting information regarding the Chapter, as well as hiking information. A discussion followed about how to transfer information from the website to the Facebook page.

Conservation Chair Jacki Bave reported that the City of Glens Falls and the Town of Queensbury have reached an agreement to open portions of the Glens Falls watershed property for public recreation. Her letter to the editor of the Post Star was published today, asking for the parties involved in planning the trail find a way to allow hiker access to the Butler Pond Trail in the winter. She also reported that in January a New York court upheld a 2013 decision in favor of the public right of navigation, in a case from a lawsuit of 2009 when private landowners sued an individual who paddled on a waterway through their property. Also, Governor Cuomo's budget calls for increasing EPF funding to \$172 million, but a coalition of environmental groups, including ADK, are pushing for \$200 million.

Maureen Coutant and George Sammons have been working on the next newsletter, looking for ways to make the process more efficient.

Young Member Group Chair Heather Webb reported that she and Jen Shepherd are maintaining the YMG Facebook page. She has made contacts with the Skidmore Outing Club and with the Albany Chapter's YMG. Heather will also update the YMG web page in our Chapter website.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Linda Ranado, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by Jacki Bave for John Caffry, Secretary