

**Minutes of the November 4, 2015 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., held at
the law office of Caffry & Flower, 100 Bay Street, Glens Falls, New York**

Present: John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Pat Desbiens, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Steve Mackey, Linda Ranado, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. Also present: Tammara Van Ryn, Kathi Noble and Anne Paolano.

Chapter Chair Laura Fiske opened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

The minutes of the October 7, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion made by Pat Desbiens and seconded by Tom Ellis.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the October 2015 Treasurer's Report. He discussed the financial results of the Annual Dinner – the net cost was about \$1,000, including the program, and volunteer recognition costs were \$690. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Jim Schneider, seconded by Wayne Richter.

Laura discussed the **Club's request for a donation** for its Winterfest event. She reminded the Committee that in April it had decided, for simplicity's sake, to not make extra donations to the Club for various fundraisers, and to just make the budgeted annual donations. It was agreed that the Chapter would stick to this. John Caffry made a motion to make the budgeted \$5,200 donation at this time, with 1/3 going to each of the Trails, Conservation, and Education programs. The motion was seconded by Aimee Rutledge, and approved unanimously.

Laura led a discussion of the **Annual Dinner**. The program received positive reviews, but the food received mixed reviews. The venue was considered to be good, but the beer selection was poor. The consensus was that the Chapter could go back there again. Everyone thanked **Anne Paolano** for doing a great job organizing the event.

The **Firetower Challenge** was discussed. There is an adequate supply of brochures to get through until the new one is issued. Jim Schneider is working on the updated book and brochure, which should both be issued in 2016.

Chair Laura Fiske announced that the next Ex. Comm. meeting will be on December 2d in Saratoga and will include a potluck dinner. The discussion of volunteer recognition for the 19 volunteers for the **Ragnar Relay** was tabled because the payment protocol by the race organizers to the Club has been changed. Laura will check into this before the next meeting.

John Caffry discussed the designation of the marl fens in the **Big Cedar Swamp** as a Critical Environmental Area by the Town of Queensbury. On behalf of the Big Cedar Swamp Coalition, which includes the Chapter, he submitted a letter to the Town, and appeared at the public hearing, in support of this action. A copy of the letter is appended to these minutes. The Town Board approved the designation. Conservation Chair Aimee Rutledge has a conflict of interest on this issue, so she can not represent the Chapter at these meetings. She reported that the Town based its CEA on an outdated report and that the smaller fen may be in the path of the airport runway extension.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter discussed the outings report for 2014/2015 – the number of trips was down about 10%. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. He said that there are people who have been on the list of leaders for over four years. He may drop some of them from the list, and will also check to see if any of them are no longer ADK members.

Laura Fiske gave the **Chapter Chair Report**. She said that the Club's new younger member outreach coordinator has contacted her and wants to work with the Chapter on its Facebook page and website. Laura will tell her to contact incoming Chapter Chair John Caffry in January. The Chapter Younger Members Committee Chair position is still vacant, as former Chair Heather Webb did not have any suggestions for a successor. For the next newsletter, she will write a thank you message to all outgoing Ex. Comm. members. She is still working on filling Ex. Comm. vacancies, and received some promising volunteer interest forms at the Annual Dinner. Mo Coutant said that she would continue doing the newsletter. The Club wrote to the Chapter thanking it for the donation of a basket to its recent fundraiser. A Chapter member has volunteered to help with a member survey. Laura may work on this with him next year. Tammara Van Ryn suggested that the Chapter see if it can obtain data on Chapter members from the Club-wide survey.

Laura reported for the **Programs Committee**, in the absence of Chair Sarah King. She said that a program is still needed for April. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Conservation Chair Aimee Rutledge said that she will be attending the upcoming Club Conservation Committee meeting. She would like to reconstitute the Chapter's committee as a full committee. Laura offered to help her access the list of volunteer interest forms.

Firetower Challenge Correspondent Kathi Noble reported that there were approximately 10 completers in the last month.

Hospitality Chair Gretchen Steen said that the Saratoga Springs Victorian Stroll is on December 3d. The Chapter has been relocated from its traditional spot in the old Post Office to the Visitors' Center.

Trails Chair Tom Ellis reported that the adopter of another trail segment on Tongue Mountain has offered to turn over his trail to the Chapter, but he has declined the offer.

Website Chair George Sammons reported that the website provider has caused some problems recently, but he is working on getting them fixed.

Mo Coutant reported that the Lake George Land Conservancy is building a lot of new hiking trails that Chapter members use. Also, the Town of Queensbury has rebuilt the trails at Hudson Pointe, built a new trail at Rush Pond, and is planning a new trail along Halfway Brook on the Glens Falls watershed.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that membership was up 33 net members in October. However, only one new member signed up at EMS Club Days. She and 3 other volunteers worked at this event. Due to low numbers, she may stop doing this event.

Education Chair Linda Ranado reported that she has one campership applicant so far and others have expressed interest.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Pat Desbiens, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – December 2, 7:00, at the Wesley in Saratoga.