

**Minutes of the December 2, 2015 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: John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Pat Desbiens, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Sarah King, Steve Mackey, Linda Ranado, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. Also present: Kathi Noble, Dan Kane, Tammara Van Ryn, Deb Donahue, Bill Wasilowski, Irene Sammons, and Licia Mackey.

Chapter Chair Laura Fiske opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. following the traditional December potluck supper. She introduced Dan Kane and Deb Donahue, who are interested in serving as Alternate Directors.

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

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the November Treasurer's Report. No dues were received from the Club. He paid the Club donations of \$5,200.00. The balance is down from last month by \$5,500. Total assets are \$9,199. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Wayne Richter.

Laura Fiske gave the **Chapter Chair's report**. She reported that the **Ragnar Relay's** system for paying organizations that recruit volunteers has changed and it is unclear if the Chapter will receive any payment for doing this. Therefore, she will not buy gifts for the volunteers, but will instead write them thank you notes. She said that next year the Club may switch to working with a different event.

Laura said that the Club is talking to a **Boy Scout troop** from Saratoga that wants to work with ADK. The Club would like to know if the Chapter has projects for them to help with. No action is needed now, and the Club will be in touch later on. She also said that Committee Chairs should let Steve Mackey know if they have requests for the **2016 Budget**.

Laura reported on an independent firetower group, not related to ADK, that is in the process of making up **Firetower Challenge** decals. Jim Schneider said that he had discussed this with Andrea Masters at the Club, and the Club will leave it up to the Chapter to decide whether and how to respond to this. John Caffry said that if the Chapter allows this kind of thing to happen too much it will lose control of the name, but on the other hand, the Club is not selling any type of FTC merchandise, and it is good PR for the FTC. Jim said that the name is copyrighted by use. It was agreed that Jim will contact the person who is doing this to discuss it with him. The directors will discuss with the Club whether it could sell FTC merchandise.

Hospitality Chair Gretchen Steen reported that preparations for the Victorian Stroll in Saratoga Springs are all ready.

Laura Fiske reported that the Club can extract the Chapter members' responses from the Club-wide **member survey**, so that she is going to see if she can work with this information, rather than conducting a survey of Chapter members, as she previously discussed.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that membership was minus 19 for October, but that the Chapter was still the second largest, behind Albany, in households, and the largest in total members.

Firetower Challenge Correspondent Kathi Noble reported that there were 11 new completers in the last month. One woman purchased a patch for her dog who had also completed the FTC.

Conservation Chair Aimee Rutledge said that she had attended the recent Club Conservation Committee meeting, and reported on the issues that were discussed there.

Past Chapter Chair Mo Coutant reported that the Club HQ workday was successful, and that newsletter contributions were due soon. She also discussed the possibility that the Chapter could work with on projects with the Queensbury Land Conservancy.

Programs Chair Sarah King reported that she is still looking for an April program, that there will not be a December program, and that the turnout for Alan Via's program last month was very good. There will be two joint programs with the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society this year.

Incoming Chapter Chair John Caffry said that at the January meeting, the budget and special donations for 2016 will be reviewed. He and Steve Mackey will circulate drafts of these items prior to the meeting.

Mo Coutant gave outgoing **Chapter Chair Laura Fiske** a card which had been signed by all of the committee members present and thanked her for her three years of service as Chair.

Dan Kane said that he was the Vice-Chair of the Club Trails Committee and is on the Club's new marketing committee, which will want to work with the chapters.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Pat Desbiens, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – January 6th, 7:00, at Carl R's in Queensbury.