

**Minutes of the February 3, 2016 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, Pat Desbiens, Kathi Noble, Linda Ranado, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Bill Wasiluski. Also present: Maureen Coutant. Guests: Stephanie Gaudons, Steve Lashomb, Katie Cuthbert, Emma Ottenheimer, Jake Wilde and Meredith Smith.

Chapter Chair John Caffry opened the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Changes to the agenda included adding guests and explaining the agenda order.

Agenda items:

John Caffry introduced the guests.

*There was a discussion of the Young Members Group with **ADK YM Coordinator, Stephanie Gaudons. Steve Lashomb** is interested in leading the chapters YM Group. Stephanie started the YM Group in Albany in 2009. She joined the ADK staff in June 2015. Her position focuses on helping chapters build/start YM Groups and to give support. She administers the chapter's YM Facebook page, puts outings on the schedule as well as putting together resources that will help YM leaders. An introduction meeting was held recently for new and perspective members with information on gear, outings and other ideas. Three people attended. Stephanie mentioned that Julie Grinder will lead some YM hikes and Rob Resin may lead. Pat Desbiens asked about membership rates, many young people can't afford to join the club. The club is looking into a way to charge them monthly instead of yearly. Stephanie also discussed that the age for YM is vague, 18 to 39ish, targeting families, she is working with Glens Falls YMCA partnering in family program and the Chamber of Commerce.

* **Katie Cuthbert** and **Emma Ottenheimer**, along with Kylie Rosabal, who was unable to attend, explained their senior capstone project. They are Environmental Studies Major at Skidmore College and are planning to design and construct a nature trail at Saratoga Independent School. They hope to use the trail as a tool to implement environmental education and science curriculum. They are looking for assistance in how to proceed with trail building. It was suggested that they contact the following: Wes Lampman at ADK, ADK 46er trail masters, The Nature Conservancy, Saratoga Plan, local landscape designers and the local boy/girl scouts. They were cautioned to check on the wetland buffers with DEC. They were also asked to notify the club for help when work dates are set.

***FTC: Jim Schneider**, publication chair for the club circa 1990 gave a brief history how the challenge came about, it was launched at the same time, as Jack Freeman's book, **Views from on High**. The updated book is scheduled for a summer/fall publication. At that time there will be a relaunch of the FTC. **Meredith Smith** has created a FTC Facebook page, which has been a great marketing value for the FTC. Thank you, Meredith! **Jake Wilde**, a self-proclaimed fire tower nerd, thru Facebook has created a design for a FTC decal. Jake is willing to work with the club on marketing his design. Jim will take it to the club for approval/modification and pricing. Jim will coordinate with Meredith, Jake, Kathi and Tim to relaunch the FTC with a creation of a new

brochure and firming up of regulations. There was a suggestion of using the FTC list to reach out to people for perspective new members. It was also suggested that some FTC finishers maybe interested in commenting on the club's blog. Kathi will contact Stephanie to pursue these ideas.

***The minutes** of the January 6, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Linda Ranado, seconded by Jim Schneider.

*There was no **Treasurer's report** due to the absence of **Steve Mackey**.

*John gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. John requested that emails be sent to both of his addresses. John discussed trying our next meeting in the Holden Room at the Crandall Library. We will evaluate after the meeting for future dates. John is continuing to working on filling committee vacancies. He shared a letter from the club thanking us for our \$3000.00 donation.

* **2016 Special donations** list was discussed. Jim suggested dropping Vanderwhacker and adding AARCH, Adirondack Architectural Heritage, for support of fire towers. John will recompile the list for discussion at the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

*John asked that we start planning for the **annual dinner** at next month's meeting. Anne Paolano should attend.

*Several committees are in need of chapter envelopes and stationary. John will talk to Steve about ordering more.

***Conservation:** Aimee Rutledge reviewed a letter that was sent on behalf of the club to the Adirondack Park Agency regarding the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (APSLMP). The amendments involve revisions which would allow bicycle use on pre-existing dirt roadways in the Primitive Classification Areas of the Essex Chain Lakes Tract, and the use of non-natural materials to build a bridge in a Wild Forest Classification Area corridor across the Cedar River, also in the Essex Chain Lakes Tract. She also attended the last public hearing on January 13th in Saratoga. There were both those in favor of and opposed to the amendments. Aimee also commented on The Corinth Reservoir Property. There are 400 acres owned by the village that will be developed as a non-motorized park. They are looking for input on the design. Aimee will contact them to get more information as to what they are looking for and how we can help. Aimee will review newspaper articles on the Glens Falls watershed properties in Queensbury.

***Membership:** Pat Desbiens reported that there were 11 new members and 11 rejoins in November for plus 3 on the total. For December there were 19 new members, 5 rejoins for a plus 10 on the total.

***Education:** Linda Ranado reported that 3 are registered for the ADK Trails program and 6 are registered for the DEC program and she is waiting on the code to get the freebie.

***Newsletter:** Mo reported that Deb Donahue is shadowing to learn how to compile the newsletter. She also reviewed upcoming programs that will be listed in the next newsletter.

***Outings:** Wayne Richter reported that there is good schedule of outings and that there are a

couple of new leaders.

***Wilderness:** Jim Schneider went to the Pharaoh Lake area; the lean-tos are in good shape.

Jim also reported on funding for the next edition for the FTC book is on hand. The publisher wants to go digital. Jim feels we should have a printed edition for now, and then maybe go to digital for the future. There is money from a memorial donation that will be used to update the FTC brochures. The family that made the donation will be notified as well as mentioned in the book.

***Website:** George Sammons stated that the master calendar will need to be updated monthly and that he can provide an excel spreadsheet to the club.

On a motion by Linda Ranado, seconded by Pat Desbiens, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Noble, Secretary

******Next meeting – March 2, 2016, 7:00, at Crandall Library, Holden Room, Glens Falls.**