

**Minutes of the October 5, 2016 Meeting of the Executive Committee  
of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club,  
Inc., held at Wesley Center, Saratoga Springs, NY**

**Present:** John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Pat Desbiens, Deb Donahue, Steve Mackey, Linda Ranado, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Gretchen Steen, Tammara Van Ryn, and Bill Wasilauski. Also present: Anne Paolano.

**Chapter Chair John Caffry** opened the meeting at 19:06.

Discussion of the appointment of Peter Benoit as an alternate director was added to the agenda. Introductions were made.

**The minutes** of the September 7, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Laura Fiske and seconded by Tammara Van Ryn.

**Treasurer Steve Mackey** presented the September Treasurer's Report. We had \$2098.00 in total income for September which included \$1952.00 received for the Annual Dinner. Total expenses were \$210.29. Current check book balance is \$9973.78 and Total Assets are \$15571.87. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens seconded by Linda Ranado.

**2016 Donation to ADK Main Club:** John Caffry proposed that the Chapter make a \$5,200 donation to the Main Club at our October 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner. The chapter donation was approved unanimously on a motion by Tammara Van Ryn and a second by Maureen Coutant.

**Appointment of Alternate Director:** John Caffry presented a proposal to add Peter Benoit as an Alternate Director. After a brief discussion the appointment was unanimously approved on a motion by Pat Desbiens and a second by Linda Ranado.

**Annual Dinner:** Anne Paolano handed out copies of a hors'dourves menu from the Embassy Suites Restaurant. Based on the prices listed, there were limited selections that they can offer for less than the proposed \$250.00. There was discussion on increasing the budgeted amount for hors'dourves to \$400 versus limiting the selection to a less expensive cheese and crackers platter(s) option. Anne will discuss this further with the venue and make a selection. John sent out invitations to Executive Director Neil Woodworth and President John Gilewicz. Neil will attend; John has family commitment and will not be able to attend. Anne requested that a few people arrive early to help set up. Several members volunteered to arrive early and help out.

**Program for Annual Dinner:** Maureen handed out copies of the draft program for review and discussion. Linda indicated that she would not be doing volunteer recognition at the dinner. Pat D. and Wayne R. confirmed they would need about 5 minutes each for their presentations. Tammara suggested that a \* be placed next to the chapter vacancies with a foot note to encourage members to step up to fill those positions. There was discussion on the program scheduling and it was generally agreed that the special program by Jocelyn Songer start after dinner at about 8:15 to 8:30 PM. Maureen will revise the Program as necessary.

**Club Survey of Chapters (Wasilauski):** There was a brief discussion of the final version of the main club's survey. Responses for outings and events questions were made, and it was generally decided that the May Chapter response be attached to this survey form as part of our reply. Bill W. will complete the survey form and send to the Chapter Chair for review/approval.

**Status of Fire Tower Book and Merchandise:** Jim Schneider asked if there was any discussion at the Board of Director's Meeting on updating the Fire Tower Book. The Publications Committee Report handed out at the 9/17/16 Board Meeting did indicate that they discussed adding other towers to the book on their August 17<sup>th</sup> conference call. They indicated that there is a Facebook Site "Country High Points and Fire Towers" that has the location of all towers, and that our chapter has that information. There was no other information presented at the Directors Meeting. Jim asked if FT merchandise was being sold at the ADK store; there was some discussion, but exact items could not be confirmed. A follow-up email from Linda indicates that a blue cap with our patch design that says "Fire Tower Trails" is the available merchandise. A T-shirt is supposed to be on its way.

### **Committee Reports:**

**\*Programs:** No report.

**\*Wilderness:** Jim Schneider reported (see above discussion on Fire Towers).

**\*Directors:** Tammara Van Ryn and Bill Wasilauski reported on the June Board of Directors meeting. Changes will be made to the High Peak Visitor Center starting this fall. The renovations to the HPIC will include removal of the showers, installation of a new wastewater disposal system for the HPIC, building remodeling (a more flexible and open floor plan), and landscaping and storm water drainage improvements. This work is being funded by a \$221,000 state grant. Also, there will be a new bathroom/wash house (laundry) building near the HPIC. They are planning to add a food service venue to the back of that campground rest room/wash house that would face the entrance area to the HPIC. Neal Woodworth discussed the 2017 referendum on a State Constitutional Convention. He presented some concerns such as potential to affect Article 14 (forever wild clause), and summarized the process if there is a convention. Parking along the road near the ADK Loj continues to be an issue, and excessive use of ADK Loj facilities (HPIC restrooms, etc.) and the stress it is putting on HPIC Staff were discussed. Temporary measures to address parking by using electronic signs (similar to NYSDOT's) to alert people that the lots are full will be implemented. They also plan to contact Forest Rangers to limit access to the ADK lots during periods of excessive usage. The club will be launching a new website by November.

**\*Newsletter:** No report.

**\*Education:** Linda Ranado reminded everyone that she is looking for campers for next year.

**\*Young Members:** No report.

**\*Membership:** Pat Desbiens reported 15 new members for August, but overall membership is down 4 from July. She is planning to attend an event in Lake George this weekend.

**\*Conservation:** Aimee Rutledge mentioned a 573 acre parcel (former Finch Pruyn Property) that is for sale in Moreau near the Hudson River. She would like to contact the Open Space Institute regarding the possible purchase of the property. Tammara provided her with contact information.

**\*Outings:** Wayne Richter reported that there is a somewhat lighter schedule for November and December due to Holidays falling on weekends.

**\*Hospitality:** Gretchen Steen – nothing to report.

**\*Trails:** no report.

**\*FTC:** no report.

On a motion by Gretchen Steen, second by Linda and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 20:43 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

William Wasilauski, on behalf of:  
Kathi Noble, Secretary

**Next meeting – November 2, 7:00 PM, at Crandall Library in Glens Falls.**