

**Minutes of the December 7, 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: Peter Benoit, Maureen Coutant, Pat Desbiens, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Sarah King, Steve Mackey, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Gretchen Steen, Tammara Van Ryn, and Bill Wasiluski. Also present: Tim Noble, Irene Sammons, Licia Mackey and Gail McDonald

Vice Chair Mo Coutant, in the absence of John Caffry opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The minutes of the November 2, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Peter Benoit, seconded by Laura Fiske.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the November Treasurer's Report. Income totaled \$1355.40; expenses were \$476.52 with total assets being \$10,182.98. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Pat Desbiens. Steve also shared a thank you note from Neil Woodworth thanking us for our chapter's donation to the club.

New Business:

***2017 Budget:** The budget will be discussed in January. Email Steve with any suggestions or changes for your committee.

***2017 Executive Committee vacancies:** 1st Vice Chair position is available. Put the word out to try to recruit someone for this position. Sarah will mention it at programs. Laura added that the person is to be organized and is able to facilitate the meetings. The committee is very helpful.

***Committee Reports:**

Conservation: Aimee Rutledge reported that she would like to write a letter to the APA on behalf of the chapter about how we feel the Boreas Ponds area should be classified. She wasn't sure how to proceed knowing that not all members are in agreement on the classification. Mo suggested that she talk to Jackie Bave and John Caffry on how to handle this. Tammara mentioned that there were about 300 people at the Schroon Lake meeting. Many good points were made to keep the road open and to have wheelchair access. She feels that the APA is going to have a difficult decision to make.

Aimee is also keeping an eye on what is happening with the former Mount McGregor Correctional Facility property.

Outings: Wayne Richter reported that the number of outings is down considerably for the first three months of 2017. Some suggestions were made to help recruit more leaders: Laura will contact the young member leader of the Schenectady chapter; they seem to have a very active group. Maybe the leader can give Steve some tips. Other suggestions were to have the current leaders talk to people who regularly go on outings to get them to lead, offer leader training workshops, put the word out in the newsletter and on the website. Mo also mentioned that many members of the executive committee are qualified to lead an outing. Remember that outings can be hikes, walks, birding, biking, canoeing or kayaking.

Fire Tower Challenge: Kathi Noble reported that there are 110 completers for 2016. New brochures are being worked on. The price for a winter rocker is \$2.00. Kathi will send George

information about the merchandise to be put on the website and for the newsletter. Kathi will also check with Val at headquarters about decals/stickers.

Wilderness: Jim Schneider didn't have anything to report on wilderness. He did discuss the publication of the fire tower book. Everything is set. Jake Wilde has added information about other towers and Jim has included information on leave no trace. Two other publications are ahead of that fire tower book. Tammara suggested we look into self-publishing. Jim doesn't feel the Jack Freeman would agree to that. It was suggested that Jim contact Jack and Tillie Freeman to solicit their support in moving the book's publication forward. It was also mentioned that knowing the Freeman's and their generosity towards ADK, they would probably offer financial support despite the project being funded by ADK's publications budget. Jim will contact the Freemans. A goal is to have the book on the shelves by May 1, 2017.

Board of Directors: Bill Wasiluski mentioned the NY Constitution Convention and that the club has been asked to take a stand. The executive committee decided at the November meeting that we are opposed to having a convention.

Tammara Van Ryn mentioned that John Million is leaving and his job will now be listed as Chief Operating Officer. Tammara highlighted areas of the club's 4.3 million dollar budget for 2017. The biggest change is an increase in contract work for trails in the Catskills, which include a new trail crew. Revenue from parking is the largest source of income. Bequests are kept in a restricted account. Staff can write proposals to use the money that will help to benefit the club. Expenses include 2.5 million for payroll and benefits. \$50,000 is used to manage debt, which includes the payment of the headquarters building, which will be paid off in 2 years. The new concession stand at the High Peaks Center will create more revenue.

Trails: Tom Ellis will be looking for volunteers to help with trail work this spring.

Hospitality: Gretchen Steen reported that the Victorian Stroll was very busy. We were back in the post office.

Programs: Sarah King reviewed the upcoming programs. She reminded us that she is always looking for new programs.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Noble, Secretary

Next meeting – January 4, 2017, 7:00, at Crandall Library, Glens Falls.