

**Minutes of the November 7, 2018 Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club,
Inc., held in Glens Falls, New York, at Crandall Public Library**

Present: Peter Benoit, John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Brian Coville, Pat Desbiens, Tom Ellis, Dan Kane, Steve Mackey, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Gretchen Steen, Tammara Van Ryn, and Bill Wasiluski. Also present: Anne Paolano.

Chapter Chair Kathi Noble opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

The minutes of the October 3, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Peter Benoit.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the October Treasurer's Report. The August and September dues were received; the Annual Dinner funds came in and went out; the Club annual donations were paid out; the biggest expense was the newsletter. Two corrections were noted: the donation to the Saratoga Springs library should be allocated from the Youth Projects line, not Education, and there were some adding errors regarding the total income. As corrected, the report was approved unanimously on a motion by Dan Kane, seconded by Brian Coville.

Kathi Noble gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. Warren Schultz has resigned as Newsletter Chair, for reasons unknown. There are now four vacancies on the Ex. Comm. She got an e-mailed thank you from Jack and Tillie Freeman for their being the Chapter's guests at the Annual Dinner. She also got a thank you from the Saratoga Springs library for the donation for the backpack project; they will let us know how much use it gets. The slate of officers for 2019 was voted on at the Annual Meeting and approved.

Anne Paolano reported on the **Annual Dinner**. The food and program were good. Mo Coutant said that the feedback she got concurred.

Pat Desbiens reported on the **newsletter opt-in** changeover. She passed out 3 drafts of notices to be sent to the Chapter members and asked for feedback. She reported that the Genesee Valley Chapter went to opt-in and only 35 out of 1,400 (+/-) members requested paper copies. Jules Greiner at the Club researched the effect on membership for chapters that made the switch and found no effect on membership. However, in response to a question from John Caffry, George Sammons said that the Chapter only has e-mail addresses for 1,200 (+/-) of its 1,500 (+/-) households. John said that the Chapter needs to remind the members to give us their e-mail addresses. A lengthy discussion ensued about how to manage the process, the database, and the lists, without resolution. George, Kathi, and Linda will meet with Jules to discuss this further.

Wilderness Chair Jim Schneider reported that the Club has dropped the Adopt-A-Wildland program that the Wilderness Committee had operated under, which had been part of the Club's Conservation Committee. The Club does participate in the DEC Volunteer Stewardship Agreement (VSA) program, under the Trails Committee. As a result, the Chapter's Job Description for the Wilderness Committee on longer matches what the Club does. Adoption of an entire wilderness area is no longer permitted, but adoption of trails is. Jim said that the easiest

thing to do would be to adopt some of the trails in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area. John Caffry suggested that the Chapter could still continue to monitor and advocate for the Area, regardless. Jim agreed to prepare a revised job description for a hybrid trail adoption and monitoring program, which would not require a vote by the members to amend the by-laws.

Banff Mountain Film Festival (BMFF) impresario, Vice-Chair Mo Coutant, reported that the contracts are signed, and she has been giving out pre-order forms for tickets. The company that prints the newsletter will donate the ticket printing; the Queensbury Hotel is donating lodging for the BMFF rep, and offering a discount to festival-goers. She will add this info to the publicity materials. Cool Insurance is increasing its sponsorship level to \$500. She is looking for donations for door prizes. She hopes to be able to sell tickets on the ACC campus this year. Renovations to the facility have been completed and port-a-potties will not be needed!

Outings Chair Wayne Richter presented his annual written report (attached). In response to an editorial in the Schenectady Gazette, he and other ADK outings chairs wrote a letter to the editor promoting ADK outings as a safe option for hikers. He said that there is now a pretty good distribution of outings types and there are more leaders than in the recent past. There are also more younger leaders.

In the absence of anyone from the **Conservation Committee**, **John Caffry** reported on conservation issues. Warren County is now considering an alternative for its runway extension project that could possibly avoid impacts to the Big Cedar Swamp wetlands. As a result of the recent elections, the New York State Senate will be changing from Republican control to Democratic control. This will be good for ADK's interests.

YMG Chair Brian Coville reported that the recent YMG dinner went well.

Mo Coutant reported for the **Programs Committee**, in the absence of Chair Sarah King and discussed the upcoming schedule. She also reported on the Club HQ workday(s).

Director Dan Kane reported on the HPIC Host program at Heart Lake.

Director Tammara Van Ryn reported on the recent Club Finance Committee meeting: dues are about equal to donations, but ADK receives a smaller part of its revenue from donations than other groups; DEC is now required to pay "prevailing wage" to its contractors – ADK can not afford to do that, so it will no longer do trail projects for DEC; the size of the pro crew will be reduced, but it will continue to do projects for other funders. The total cost of the HPIC project is now \$924,000. The search for a new E.D. is beginning – the Ex. Comm. is preferring a lawyer over someone who can fundraise.

Hospitality Chair Gretchen Steen reported on the upcoming Victorian Stroll in Saratoga, and made a request for volunteers.

Trails Chair Tom Ellis reported that he has heard a report that the trail on Tongue Mtn is in good shape.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that there were 23 new members in October, but that overall, membership was down -1 for the month.

Website Chair George Sammons said that he will put a sign-up list for the potluck dinner at next month's meeting on the website.

Kathi Noble reported that in the absence of an Education Chair, she is taking care of the **campership program**. There have been two applications so far.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Dan Kane, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary.

Next meeting – December 5, 7:00, at the Wesley in Saratoga.