

**Minutes of the March 4, 2019 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**

**Note:** The February meeting was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

**Present:** John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Brian Coville, Tom Ellis, Sarah King, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, Jim Schneider, Gretchen Steen, Tammara Van Ryn, Bill Wasilauski and Laurie Williams. Also present: Anne Paolano and guest Chuck Edwards.

**Chapter Chair Kathi Noble** opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. She introduced guest Chuck Edwards, and the Committee members introduced themselves.

**The minutes** of the January 2, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Tammara Van Ryn, seconded by Wayne Richter.

There was no **Treasurer's Report** due to the absence of the Treasurer.

**Kathi Noble** gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. Jules Greiner at ADK HQ has organized an online chat group for chapter chairs and other volunteers. To join, contact Jules. Kathi appointed the members of the 2019 **Nominating Committee**: Mo Coutant (chair), Peter Benoit, and Brian Coville.

**Mo Coutant** reported on the recent showing of the **Banff Mountain Film Festival** ("BFF"). She presented a post-show financial statement (attached). Both nights sold out (about 800 total tickets). She paid extra to get a better projector; all of the tech aspects were good. The BFF Committee has received and reviewed comments from attendees. She is working on thank-you packages and an ad for the sponsors. The BFF staffer thought it went well; Mo and Steve Mackey took her for a hike and to lunch. Mo comped tickets to ACC leaders and the press. Someone suggested doing it at the Wood Theater, but ACC is larger and it has been working well there.

There was a profit of about \$5,500, about \$2,000 more than last year. The total on hand now is \$8,900. The BFF Committee wants to save \$4,400, enough to cover next year's expenses, and then allocate the rest to several donations each to ACC and ADK (listed in the financial statement). John Caffry suggested giving less to ACC and saving less, and making a donation to the Club's professional trail crew, which lost all of its state funding this year. \$5,000 will put a full crew in the field for a week. The BFF Committee will study this issue more and report back.

**Kathi Noble** led a discussion of a **High Peaks usage survey** which is being conducted by Skidmore students, who have asked the Chapter to distribute it and link to it. The Adirondack Council has done a similar study. After some discussion, no action was taken on the request.

Kathi reported that Jon Nemer of the Hudson-Mohawk Sierra Club group contacted her and asked the Chapter to support **Warren County's proposed ban on plastic shopping bags**. She discussed this with Neil Woodworth and Cathy Pedler, who said that the Club supports the proposed statewide ban, but had no information on the County's proposal. John Caffry said that under Club policy, the Chapter could support this as a local issue that is consistent with Club

policy. The issue was tabled because the public hearing is not until April, so no action is required at this time. If the statewide ban is passed, the County's legislation will be moot.

Kathi reported for the **Membership Committee**, in the absence of Chair Pat Desbiens. She said that membership was a net + 15 for February. Pat had a membership table at the Telluride Mountain Film Festival at Skidmore.

**Trails Committee Chair Tom Ellis** said that the Tongue Mountain trail work would be done on either the last Saturday of April or else May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Programs Chair Sarah King** reported that the March program would be John Schneider's program on polar bears, and that the April and May programs have been published in the newsletter. There were no joint programs with Southern Adirondack Audubon this past year, but there will be one in November.

**Director Bill Wasilauski** reported that he and Peter Benoit can not attend the next Board meeting. Kathi will designate two of the alternate directors to attend in their place.

**YMG Chair Brian Coville** said that a bowling event and a game night are planned.

**Wilderness Chair Jim Schneider** reported that he now has a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement with DEC and ADK, on behalf of the Chapter, for certain trails in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area. He will coordinate his work with the DEC forester, and work with John Caffry on revising the Committee's job description to fit the new mode of operation.

**Fire Tower Correspondent Kathi Noble** reported that the number of completers has slowed down, which is typical for the winter. John Caffry said that Warren County, which owns the Swede Mountain tower in the Hague area, wants to open it to the public and have it added to the Challenge. Committee Chair Jim Schneider said that he had reached out to the County, but had received no response. John offered to help with that.

**Outings Chair Wayne Richter** reported that he is planning a social event for outings leaders in March. He will also invite potential new leaders.

**Annual Dinner Coordinator Anne Paolano** said that Carl Heilman has agreed to give the program on October 25<sup>th</sup>. She said she is looking into possible locations in the Glens Falls-Lake George area, and these were discussed. She will try to keep the price below \$35.

**Mo Coutant** said that the next **newsletter deadline** is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Gretchen Steen, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

**Next meeting – April 3d, 7:00, at the Wesley in Saratoga.**