

**Minutes of the April 3, 2019 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, Maureen Coutant, Brian Coville, Pat Desbiens, Tom Ellis, Jennifer Ferris, Dan Kane, Steve Mackey, Kathi Noble, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Gretchen Steen, Tammara Van Ryn, and Laurie Williams. Also present: Anne Paolano, Paul Dietershagen, Kim Brown.

Chapter Chair Kathi Noble opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. and introduced the guests, who are interested in volunteering for the Chapter.

The minutes of the March 4, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Steve Mackey, seconded by Tammara Van Ryn.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the Treasurer's Report for January to March. An installment of dues was received each month. He paid the special donations in January. The newsletter was the big expense item in February. He also paid the P.O. box rental. The report also includes the revenue and expenses for the Banff Film Festival, for which the net profit was \$5,511. The total asset balance was \$17,259, an increase of \$5,114 since the beginning of the year. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Dan Kane.

Kathi gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She got a thank-you note from the Club for the Chapter's sponsorship of Teen Trails participants. She then **appointed Jenn Ferris as Newsletter Chair**, Jenn then resigned as Conservation Co-chair, and Kathi appointed **Paul Dietershagen as Conservation Co-chair**.

Kathi reported that she collected \$226 from ADK HQ for **snowshoe rentals** for 2016-2019, and submitted the cash to the Treasurer. HQ said that there were no rentals this year, perhaps due to the reduced hours that HQ is open now. There is a total of 6 pairs available. Rental numbers were: 2016 - 4 pairs, 2017- 9 pairs, 2018 – 4 pairs, 2019 – 0 pairs.

Annual Dinner Coordinator Anne Paolano reported that she got proposals from four venues, and that she again recommends the Great Escape Lodge, in large part due to the quoted prices, and because that venue has worked well in the past. The room there is a good one for a program like Carl Heilman's. The Committee agreed with the recommendation. Anne will pay the \$200 deposit soon. There will be four menu choices, including a vegetarian option. Heilman will not need a hotel room. She will work out the amount of the speaker's fee with him, within the budgeted amount.

Mo Coutant reported on the **Banff Film Festival (BFF)**. She has already arranged for the use of the theater at ACC again next year, and has discussed with the college having additional activities, that will utilize additional space in the building. She has gathered additional information on possible uses of the proceeds [2 year total = \$9,040], but wanted to discuss that with the ad hoc BFF Committee before proposing any action to the Executive Committee.

Laurie Williams and **Tammara Van Ryn** reported on the recent Club **Board of Directors** meeting. For 2018 there was a revenue shortfall of \$60,000. The Club's cash position is \$300,000 short of where it should be, so various reserves and bequests will have to be invaded. The biggest problem was the cost overruns on the HPIC project at Heart Lake. Mo Coutant, a member of the Club's Audit Committee, said that there were no major problems with the audit. Membership has continued to grow.

The search for a new Executive Director is going nowhere fast. The search committee can't seem to decide what to do and is reconsidering things. The Club is paying to have fiber optic cable installed on the Loj Road because the current dialup set-up is hampering operations. The Club is also working on a policy for the use of wifi at Heart Lake. Tammara gave the Board a training session on Club's IRS Form 990 and also facilitated a chapter roundtable at the meeting.

YMG Chair Brian Coville said that he is regularly getting new people at the YMG events. More are planned, including sunset hikes in the summer.

Conservation Co-Chair Aimee Rutledge reported that she is still managing the Chapter's Facebook page, which has about 800 followers. She will put a promo for it in the next newsletter.

Aimee also reported on Conservation matters. The next Club Conservation Committee meeting is on May 11th. Paul will attend for the Chapter. The organizers of the Palmertown area plan are looking for people to help scout out possible new trails. There was a discussion of ways to recruit people to do this.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that membership for February was a net minus 3 members. She will have a table at Raptorfest in May and is lining up volunteers.

Trails Chair Tom Ellis said that the trail work day will be on May 4th.

Website Chair George Sammons discussed recent updates to the website and how to manage the opt-in process for the newsletter in the future. He has found someone who may be interested in working on the website with him.

Mo Coutant reported that she will edit the next **newsletter**. Jenn will assist her with that and then edit the next edition herself. Although money was budgeted to buy a subscription to MS Publisher for the next editor, Jenn already has this, so the Chapter does not need to buy it.

Mo reported that Peter Benoit has declined to be on the **Nominating Committee**, so that she and Brian are looking for Committee members, as well as potential nominees.

FTC Chair Jim Schneider reported that John Caffry put him in touch with County Supervisor (and Chapter member) Claudia Braymer, who put him in touch with Supervisor Matt Simpson regarding the County's plan to open the Swede Mountain fire tower to the public and have it added to the FTC. This is moving forward and he will work with the County on it.

Wilderness Chair Jim Schneider reported that he has updated the committee's job description and will present it to the Executive Committee for approval. He has adopted two trails and a lean-to in the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness Area, on behalf of the Chapter. He is coordinating with the DEC forester, and hopes to plan a work day.

Kathi reported for the **Outings Committee**, in the absence of Chair Wayne Richter. She said that there is a full schedule of outings planned for May to July. About 15 people attended the outings social gathering in March, including two new people who may want to become outings leaders.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Dan Kane, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – May 1, 7:00, at Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls.