

**Minutes of the September 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**

Present: Kim Brown, John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Brian Coville, Pat Desbiens, Paul Dietershagen, Tom Ellis, Sarah King, Steve Mackey, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Gretchen Steen, Tammara Van Ryn, and Bill Wasilauski. Also present: Megan McLaughlin.

In the absence of the Chair, **Vice-Chair Mo Coutant** opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. She led a discussion about the recent deaths of current Executive Committee member Dan Kane and former chapter chair Edythe Robbins, their lives, and their contributions to the Chapter. Members of the Committee shared their reminiscences throughout the meeting.

The minutes of the June 2019 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Tammara Van Ryn, seconded by Brian Coville.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the June, July and August Treasurer's Reports. Dues were received from the Club in all 3 months. Two newsletters were the biggest expense. Bear canister rental income of \$15 was received. Total assets are \$17,619. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Wayne Richter.

Mo gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**, discussing upcoming events of interest. She suggested that the **vacancy on the Board of Directors** caused by Dan's death be covered by alternate directors for the time being, and then appointing someone to fill the vacancy for the next year. A candidate could then be found who could be voted on for a full term, starting in 2021. There were no objections to this suggestion.

Mo reported on the **Annual Dinner**, in the absence of Coordinator Anne Paolano. She said that everything is under control and on time. Outgoing Executive Director Neil Woodworth and outgoing President John Gilewicz, and Dan Kane's widow Charlene, will be invited as guests. Kathi Noble will handle the invitations.

Tammara Van Ryn and Bill Wasilauski reported on the June **Board of Directors** meeting. The Club is looking for chapters to donate baskets for the online auction. A new E.D. may be hired by the next meeting. The Club's "Grow ADK" fund is significantly reduced because a lot of it went to pay for cost overruns on the Heart Lake construction projects. It is supported by bequests and is intended to be used for special projects. The Club is doing a new strategic plan. The Cold River Chapter is still seeking our chapter's support for the Fall Outing in 2022. A wide-ranging discussion of the Club's financial mismanagement, especially on the Heart Lake projects, under the current (outgoing) leadership ensued.

Education Chair Kim Brown reported that she will have a table at Naturefest at Moreau Lake State Park this month, offering advice on Leave-No-Trace principles and hiker safety. She got letters of appreciation from this year's campership recipients and their mothers, and she will put some quotes in the newsletter.

YMG member Megan McLaughlin reported on behalf of Chair Brian Coville. The sunset hikes went well, and two new chapter members were recruited. They are planning social events and game nights for the coming months.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that membership was a net +5 for May, -2 for June, and +6 for July. Our chapter is now the largest in ADK. Regarding **opt-ins for the print newsletter**, there are about 30 new opt-ins, for a total of 87 (5% of the total memberships). George Sammons asked about how that will work. The newsletter will go electronic in the February 2020 issue.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter presented the proposed guidelines for funding training for outings leaders, with money from the Banff Mountain Film Festival (BMFF) (copy attached). Wayne will add examples of suitable types of training, based on the discussion by the Ex. Comm. The proposal was approved unanimously, on a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Tammara Van Ryn.

Treasurer Steve Mackey asked about accepting credit cards for the annual dinner. Mo suggested using Venmo or Paypal. They will look into it for next year. Mo will also look into it for the BMFF.

Fire Tower Challenge (FTC) Chair Jim Schneider reported that DEC is running its own promotion of Catskill fire towers, with no mention of ADK's FTC. On Labor Day weekend there was an event to light up towers at night. There were 31 FTC completers in July and August and interest in the FTC is growing.

Programs Chair Sarah King reported that the September program will be held in Saratoga because Crandall Library double-booked the room. The November program will be a joint program on Hudson River School painters with Southern Adirondack Audubon.

BMFF Chair Mo Coutant said that she will sign the 2020 contract soon, but that she is still waiting on the tech details with ACC.

Mo Coutant led a discussion of the Chapter's **annual donations to the Club**. Making a donation in Dan's honor was also discussed, and Tammara agreed to look into what the Club staff's needs are. It was agreed that it was early and no decision needed to be made at this time. On a motion by Tammara, seconded by Pat Desbiens, it was agreed that \$150 would be spent for FTC merchandise for a **basket for the Club's online auction**.

Tammara Van Ryn said that the Club is soliciting donations for a celebration in honor of **outgoing E.D. Neil Woodworth**. She made a motion, seconded by Mo Coutant, that the Chapter donate \$100 for this. After a discussion, there were no votes in favor of the motion, and it failed 0-15.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Steve Mackey, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – October 2, 2019, 7:00, at the Wesley in Saratoga.