

**Minutes of the January 8, 2020 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, Brian Coville, Pat Desbiens, Paul Dietershagen, Tom Ellis, Jen Ferriss, Emily Kane, Steve Mackey, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge (by phone), George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Jen Shepherd, Gretchen Steen, Bill Wasilauski, and Laurie Williams. **Also present:** Maureen Coutant, Charlene Kane, Megan McLaughlin, and Anne Paolano.

**Chapter Chair Kathi Noble** opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The new committee members were introduced and the other members introduced themselves to the newcomers.

**The minutes** of the December 4, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Brian Coville, seconded by Wayne Richter.

**Treasurer Steve Mackey** presented the December Treasurer's Report. One month's worth of dues and \$150 in Fire Tower Challenge patch fees were received. He paid the \$5,000 annual donation to the Club; newsletter costs were \$1,766. Total assets at the end of the year were \$18,518, of which \$9,770 was related to the film festival (current and past years). The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Wayne Richter.

Kathi gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She will participate in a conference call with the Club's strategic planning consultant. Jim Schneider said that he had already done this. Kathi said that the Club sent a thank you note for the recent donation. She has invited Michael Barrett, the new Club E.D., to attend a Chapter Ex. Comm. meeting.

**Steve Mackey** began a discussion of the **Warren County rail trail** proposal. Information on this was previously circulated by John Caffry. Steve recommended that the Chapter support this proposal. John said that Club policy allows chapters to take positions on conservation issues of local interest, so long as they do not conflict with the Club's position on the issue, if any; the Club has a statement of support for a study of this proposal on its website. There was a discussion of the ownership of the various sections of the rail line and of the pros and cons of supporting the proposal. **Conservation co-chair Aimee Rutledge** made a motion that:

The Chapter supports study and evaluation of a rail-to-trail conversion of the rail line from Saratoga Springs to Newcomb, for its economic and recreation benefits.

The motion was seconded by Kim Brown, and passed unanimously. Aimee will work on a letter to send to the State and others, and she and co-chair Paul Dietershagen will bring this up at the next Club Conservation Committee meeting in March.

**Treasurer Steve Mackey** presented the 2020 budget. He reduced the newsletter budget from \$10,750 to \$6,000 due to the changeover to electronic delivery. All other items are pretty much unchanged. The budget would project a \$210 surplus, without including the film festival proceeds. John Caffry said that in past years the budget has usually projected a loss, but would

up more or less even in the end. Various line items were discussed. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Bill Wasilauski and seconded by Brian Coville.

**Kathi Noble** distributed the 2019 list of **special donations**. Most of the groups that are on the list own or support areas where the Chapter holds outings. Kathi suggested making donations to the two libraries where the monthly program meetings are held; no action was taken on that idea. Friends of the IBA has changed its name to Grassland Birds Trust. Steve will confirm that Refugees to Camp is still in operation. John made a motion, seconded by Pat, to make the same donations (\$75 each) to the same 17 groups. The motion passed unanimously.

**Mo Coutant, Chair of the ad hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Committee**, reported on preparations for this year's event. Both nights were sold out as of Christmas, and there is a waiting list. She met with the IT department at ACC. They have hired a new audiovisual person, so the technical arrangements are all set. She is collecting donations for door prizes and will raffle off a custom Adirondack chair and also a print donated by Jack Freeman. The raffle tickets will be \$2 each or 3 for \$5. There will not be a pre-event event as had previously been considered. She is looking for volunteers to help out at the event. The doors will open at 6:15.

**Minister Without Portfolio Mo Coutant** reported that she has updated the Ex. Comm. roster. It was circulated for corrections. She said that the Second Vice Chair position is open and she is looking for a volunteer.

**Education Chair Kim Brown** said that she has sent out acceptance notification letters for the camperships. There is a wait list for the DEC camps.

**Website Chair George Sammons** discussed details of creating the lists for the first e-newsletter.

**Director Bill Wasilauski** reported on the December 2019 **Club Board of Directors** meeting. The highlight was that **Mo received a volunteer recognition award**. There was a lengthy debate about the rules for spending bequests, which had been going into the "Grow ADK Fund". A resolution was passed to treat some bequests as temporarily restricted in some ways, but also to allow some of these funds to be spent. \$184,000 of previously restricted funds will be used to cover the 2019 deficit. An internet/wifi use policy for the Loj was passed. New E.D. Michael Barrett was introduced to the Board. The Loj roof has leaks and the estimated cost of repairs is \$50,000. Bill said that he, too, was interviewed by the strategic planning consultant.

**YMG Chair Brian Coville** reported that the group has a game night coming up. Kim said that Brian is the subject of a story in the current edition of *Adirondac* magazine. Pat Desbiens said that **Jen Ferriss** was on the cover of the *Adirondack Sports* newspaper.

**Newsletter Chair Jen Ferriss** said that the next deadline was February 1<sup>st</sup>. **Pat Desbiens** said that there were at least 143 members who have opted in for the mailed newsletter so far. The next newsletter will be the first e-version. She has not yet decided on the best way to format and send the remaining mailed copies.

**Membership Chair Pat Desbiens** said that she is working on revising the **volunteer request form** and suggested that others do so too. George will circulate the document for review. John explained how he distributes the completed forms that arrive in the P.O. box and asked if any committee chairs have actually picked up volunteers from them; some chairs said that they had. Pat reported that **membership** was a net minus 13 for October and minus 4 for November.

**Publicity Chair Jen Shepherd** said that she is working with Programs Chair Sarah King on an updated distribution list for the program announcements. She is also working on a new flyer with the new ADK branding on it.

**Steve Mackey** reported on the Chapter's **rental snowshoes**. The Harris Grocery decided not to host them, so now they are at Steve's former store, the Luzerne Market. He suggested simplifying the rental rates and it was agreed that all rentals will be \$10. He said that when he picked them up at ADK HQ, there were only 5 pairs, not 6. One pair of kids' snowshoes was missing.

Steve said that the **film festival money** is now all in a savings account. He would like to move it into a checking account, so that he can write checks for festival expenses from it. On a motion by Steve, seconded by Jim Schneider, the change was unanimously approved.

**Conservation co-chair Paul Dietershagen** said that he has not yet done the scouting of trail routes for the Lincoln Mountain State Forest, but expects to do so.

**Kathi** reported that for 2019 there were 148 **Fire Tower Challenge completers**, plus 10 winter completers and 8 kids, for a total of 166. From 2012 to 2019 the total is 764.

**Jim Schneider** reported on the **Mt. Jo Trail project**. The Chapter's \$5,000 donation is the seed money. This will be a priority for the Club's trails program, and it is working on a budget, which is currently estimated at \$100,000, for a 1 to 2 year project. He also said that the Club is looking for volunteer trailhead stewards for Heart Lake. This can be done for a week or a weekend.

**Annual Dinner Coordinator Anne Paolano** said that she is looking for a program for the 2020 dinner, which will be held in Saratoga Springs.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

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

**Note:** The March meeting will be held in the Community Room in the basement of Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls.