

**Minutes of the February 5, 2020 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: Kim Brown, John Caffry, Brian Coville, Pat Desbiens, Paul Dietershagen, Tom Ellis, Jen Ferriss, Emily Kane, Steve Mackey, Kathi Noble, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Jen Shepherd, Gretchen Steen, and Bill Wasilauski. **Also present:** Maureen Coutant, Charlene Kane, Megan McLaughlin, Anne Paolano, Laura Fiske, and Michael Barrett.

Chapter Chair Kathi Noble opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The Committee members introduced themselves to the guests.

The minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Steve Mackey.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the January 2020 Treasurer's Report. One month's dues and \$83 in Fire Tower Challenge (FTC) patch fees were received. Thirteen of the 17 special donations (\$975) were paid, and \$2,100 was paid for camperships. Total assets are \$20,867, of which \$13,299 is in the Banff Mountain Film Festival (BMFF) account. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Bill Wasilauski, seconded by Pat Desbiens.

Kathi gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She said that the **Adirondack Lobby Day** in Albany would be on February 10th. Michael Barrett explained to the Committee how to sign up for this through the Protect the Adirondacks website, and the issues that would be the focus of the effort. Kathi also discussed that an acquaintance had asked about how to contact Chapter members about supporting an effort to get the Town of Malta to join the **Smart Community** climate change program. It was suggested that it could be promoted in the newsletter or on the website. John Caffry said that, pursuant to a prior Ex. Comm. resolution, such links can be put on the website if the Ex. Comm. okays it. It was agreed that this link would be okay, with no objections.

New ADK Executive Director Michael Barrett addressed the Committee. He said that he had been on the job for 10 weeks so far, and discussed the lobbying efforts that he had been involved with in Albany with other Adirondack advocates. He said that the FTC is very popular with legislative staff people. He is trying to find a way to change the DEC bidding requirements for trail crew contracts so that ADK can do this work, and to find other ways to fund the trail crew. The Club is doing a strategic planning process and a report is expected in March. He is looking at how to improve the Club's management and budget processes, and is reorganizing the management staff. He plans to be involved in all aspects of Club management. In response to a question, he said that Neil Woodworth is only a volunteer now, and he has not spoken to Neil in weeks. Michael left the meeting at the end of his presentation.

YMG volunteer and Club staffer **Megan McLaughlin** gave an unofficial presentation on the **Club's branding program**, so that the Chapter would be aware of what would be happening in the future. The Club will start to push this on the chapters, so that all ADK websites, letterheads, etc., share similar fonts, colors, logos, etc. It was discussed that it will be easier for the Chapter

if it starts to integrate these things into its materials now, but that it can also continue to use its chapter patch logo.

Brian Coville and Jen Ferriss discussed their work on updating the **volunteer request form**. Currently, Pat Desbiens mails this form to all new members with their new member packet. If the form is completed and mailed in, Secretary John Caffry scans it and e-mails it to the chairs of the committees for which the new member has indicated an interest. Ideas about how to improve the form, and how to disseminate the results, were discussed. It was also discussed that this form should be available on the website, as well as hard copies being mailed out by Pat. Ex. Comm. members will submit their suggestions and Brian and Jen will keep working on it.

Ad Hoc BMFF Committee Chair Mo Coutant reported that she is working on the raffle items and door prizes – many of them are handmade donated items. The profits from these sales will go to the Summit Stewards program. The festival program is ready to go to the printer. The doors will open around 6:15.

Education Chair Kim Brown reported on the status of the camperships and that she has received a request from Schuylerville Elementary School to do a program. She may also do a program at Glens Falls High School for Girls' Day.

Annual Dinner Coordinator Anne Paolano reported on her work for the 2020 dinner. At this point, the date, venue, and program have yet to be determined.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that membership was up a net +5 for December. She will have a membership table at the BMFF. She also reported that 171 members have opted in for the **mailed version of the newsletter**.

Anne reported for the **Programs Committee**, in the absence of Chair Sarah King. She said that the programs are all set through June.

Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen reported that there is no action yet on the Palmertown trails planning and that the Warren County rail trail process is on hold. It was agreed that the Chapter won't take any action on the latter issue at this point until we see what is happening.

FTC Committee Chair Jim Schneider reported that there is progress on reopening the Swede Mountain tower in Warren County, and that another one in the Catskills may be reconstructed and opened up. He also discussed various stewardship programs that he is working on.

On a motion by **Tom Ellis**, which was approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – March 4th, 7:00, at Crandall Public Library in Glens Falls.