

**Minutes of the May 6, 2020 Meeting of the Executive Committee  
of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club,  
Inc., held virtually via ZOOM**

**Present:** Kim Brown, John Caffry, Brian Coville, Pat Desbiens, Paul Dietershagen, Tom Ellis, Jen Ferriss, Emily Kane, Sarah King, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Jen Shepherd, and Gretchen Steen. **Also present:** Maureen Coutant, Charlene Kane, Megan McLaughlin, and Anne Paolano.

**Chapter Chair Kathi Noble** opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

**The minutes** of the March 4, 2020 meeting, which were recorded by Jen Ferris due to John Caffry's absence, were approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Sarah King. [The April 2020 meeting was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic; see below for discussion of actions taken without a meeting since the March meeting.]

**The Treasurer's Report** for March and April, which was submitted by e-mail by **Steve Mackey**, was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by John Caffry. Kathi noted that this report did not include the Banff Mountain Film Festival (BMFF) money for that period. Mo Coutant said that there was very little activity in that account during that time. The report showed that no dues had been received from the Club since February.

**Kathi Noble** opened a discussion of making a **donation to the Club** to help it with the loss of revenue due to the pandemic. Various possible budget cuts to cover this extra expense to the Chapter were discussed, but not acted upon, as was the need for the Chapter to be careful due to the lack of dues payments from the Club. There was a general discussion of the Club's current situation. The planned donation of \$2,500 to the Club from the BMFF 2020 proceeds as a restricted gift was discussed. Jim Schneider made a motion to make this \$2,500 donation to the Club as an unrestricted gift to help it with the current situation. The motion was seconded by Kim Brown and unanimously approved. Charlene Kane reported that the \$5,000 restricted gift made by the Chapter last year for the Mt. Jo trail will be held over by the Club until 2021 because the work has been delayed, unless the Chapter decides to release the restriction. No action was taken on this suggestion at this time.

Kathi gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She received a thank-you letter from the Club for the Chapter's donation of \$1,355 in BMFF raffle proceeds as a gift in memory of Dan Kane. She reported that the HPIC Stewards program is on hold and many other Club programs have been cancelled.

**Nominating Committee Chair Brian Coville** reported that one director position and five officer positions need to be filled. The slate needs to be completed by the September newsletter deadline. [See page 2 below for report on the appointment of the Committee in April.]

**Annual Dinner Coordinator Anne Paolano** reported that the Embassy Suites is being flexible about the \$200 deposit that the Chapter paid and will return it if the event is canceled due to the pandemic. She said that June 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to submit the "save the date" notice for the

newsletter. John Caffry suggested that the notice say that the meeting is tentative and offered to look into how to hold the election if there is not an in-person dinner and meeting. Anne said that the speaker's costs will total about \$880, but there is no written contract with him. [See below for report on the prior authorization of this expenditure.] She will let him know that it is possible that the event may be cancelled. It was discussed that the decision to cancel could be made as late as the September Ex. Comm. meeting, and that it would also be possible to hold a special meeting during the summer.

**Emily Kane** discussed her proposal to set up and manage an **Instagram account** for the Chapter, with a goal of getting more younger members involved. Aimee Rutledge supported the idea and said that it could be coordinated with the Facebook page, which she manages. It was suggested that this also be coordinated with the Club's staff. Brian Coville made a motion to approve setting up an account for the Chapter, which was seconded by Jim Schneider and unanimously approved. Kathi then appointed Emily to manage the account and said that this would come under the Publicity Committee.

**Fire Tower Challenge (FTC) Chair Jim Schneider** reported that after an e-mail discussion with the Ex. Comm. in March, he decided to suspend the FTC due to the pandemic. DEC has closed the towers themselves, but some people are still climbing them. Most similar challenges around the state have been suspended, but not the 46ers. The Schenectady Chapter followed our lead and suspended the Northville-Placid Trail Challenge. Kathi Noble said that at first people commenting on the FTC Facebook page (which she manages) were unhappy with the suspension, but now it has calmed down. There was a discussion of when to possibly reopen the FTC, possibly depending in part on when DEC reopens the towers, when the various regions of the state are reopened, and when ADK starts doing outings again. John Caffry said that completion letters continue to come in, but so far none of them were completed in violation of the suspension. Kathi said that [as the FTC Correspondent] she will be checking for this and that in the past she has rejected people who have climbed towers during their seasonal closure periods.

**Secretary John Caffry** reported on two actions that were taken by e-mail during March and April:

1. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, a formal vote of the Ex. Comm. was taken to appoint Brian Coville as Chair of the **Nominating Committee**, and Amanda Gomez, Laura Fiske, Mo Coutant, and Peter Benoit as the members of the Committee. The resolution passed by a vote of 17-1. A copy of the resolution and Kathi's report on the outcome of the vote will be attached to these minutes.
2. On March 9 and 10 the Ex. Comm. discussed by e-mail Anne Paolano's question about spending about \$870 for the speaker for the Annual Meeting and his expenses, which is about 10% over the budget of \$800. There were no objections, and with the proposal being only slightly over budget, Kathi told her to go ahead and book the speaker.

**Director Emily Kane** reported on the recent Club Board of Directors meeting. She referred to Director Bill Wasilauski's written report which discussed the Club's dire financial position, its approval for a \$450,000 Payroll Protection Program loan/grant, and the progress on the Club's

new strategic plan. Director Brian Coville said that he would share the executive summary with the Committee when he can.

**BMFF Ad Hoc Committee Chair Mo Coutant** reported that the BMFF reserved funds may be needed to support the festival next year if ticket sales or sponsorships are down due to the pandemic, but it is too soon to tell; it is unknown if the event will even be possible, either in Banff or locally.

**Conservation Committee Co-Chair Aimee Rutledge** reported that Saratoga PLAN received a \$450,000 grant for planning for the Palmertown Range trails project. There was a discussion of the current condition of the trails in the Daniels Road and Lincoln Mountain State Forests in that area.

**Membership Chair Pat Desbiens** reported that membership was net +11 in February but net - 43 in March. The newsletters have been mailed to those who opted in. She was going to send postcards to the 300 +/- members that don't have listed e-mail addresses, but put that on hold due to the financial situation. All of the events that she usually covers have been postponed or cancelled.

**Newsletter Chair Jen Ferriss** reported that the next newsletter will be very short because it won't have trip reports or upcoming outings listings, because outings have been suspended due to the pandemic. **Outings Chair Wayne Richter** agreed that there was no point in printing the planned outings, but they are listed on the website as "tentative" outings. The newsletter will refer to those listings. There was a discussion of not printing the print copies for those members who opted in, but there was no support for the idea.

**Outings Chair Wayne Richter** said that outings are suspended, so he had nothing else to report.

**Programs Chair Sarah King** reported that all planned programs have been cancelled, but some have been rescheduled for future dates.

**Trails Chair Tom Ellis** had no report, but the Committee regaled him with a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday". Some members held up home-made signs in honor of the occasion.

**Website Chair George Sammons** reported that he had changed the website to make it work better with phones and tablets.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Pat Desbiens, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

**Next meeting – June 3, 7:00, on ZOOM.**