

**[Corrected] Minutes of the June 3, 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, Megan McLaughlin, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Jen Shepherd, Gretchen Steen, Bill Wasilauski, and Laurie Williams. **Also present:** Maureen Coutant, Charlene Kane, Anne Paolano, and various pets.

**Chapter Chair Kathi Noble** opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

**The minutes** of the May 6, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Kim Brown, seconded by Pat Desbiens.

**Kathi Noble** gave the **Treasurer's Report** for Treasurer Steve Mackey, who was absent, and said that there had been no transactions in the last month.

**Kathi Noble** gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She reported that ADK Executive Director Michael Barrett said in a ZOOM meeting last week that **the Club's finances** are in better shape than they were a month ago, but are still uncertain. There was a discussion of the Club's finances and the status of its programs. Jim Schneider said that JBL is unlikely to open this year and the Loj will only be open on a limited basis at most. Kathi asked whether the Chapter should lift the restriction on last year's \$5,000 donation in honor of Dan Kane for support of the Mt. Jo trail project. After some discussion, there was a consensus to hold on this for now and see how things go. The Club is still not paying chapters their dues share. No action was taken on any further donations to the Club.

Kathi continued her report, saying that the Club recently sent a thank you letter for the Chapter's donation to help it get through the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Kathi reported that Brian Coville has resigned as **Younger Members Group ("YMG") Chair**. She said that **Megan McLaughlin** had agreed to take the position. Megan is an employee of the Club, but the Chapter by-laws only prohibit employees from being Chapter officers, and do allow them to be committee chairs. Kathi then appointed Megan to be the YMG committee's chair. Brian will continue to be a Director representing the Chapter.

**Aimee Rutledge** and **Emily Kane** gave an update on the Chapter's **social media** accounts. Aimee manages the Chapter's Facebook page, Megan McLaughlin manages the YMG Facebook page, and Emily has started a Chapter Instagram page. They are working within the Club's social media best management practices and have consulted with Ben Brosseau of the Club staff. The Instagram account already has 103 followers. Emily asked that people submit pictures for her to post.

**Annual Dinner Coordinator Anne Paolano** reported that the speaker is holding the date, but he will want to be compensated if the Chapter cancels less than two months in advance. She will tell the speaker that we will let him know after the Sept. 2d Ex. Comm. meeting, which is just less than two months. The venue will require two weeks notice of cancellation in order to give us a refund of the deposit. About of 85-90 dinners would be required to meet the minimum expenditure requirement. She will put a save-the-date notice in the newsletter, and the Ex. Comm. will have to make a decision by Sept. 2d. Kim Brown suggested putting on an online program that people could pay to see; that idea will be considered later.

At the request of some of the Ex. Comm. members, due to the potential need for the Chapter to take action related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kathi called **special meetings** for July 8th and August 5th. She will cancel them if there is nothing to discuss.

**Outings Chair Wayne Richter** reported that the Club is allowing chapters to restart outings and that a set of draft guidelines has been circulated. He thinks that this needs more work, but it will only allow small groups, and includes specific rules for social distancing, screening participants for sickness, etc. Various ideas were discussed, and no members were opposed to restarting outings. It was agreed that Wayne would work on guidelines for the Chapter and that this would be voted on at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, assuming that this region enters "Phase 4" of the State's reopening process by then. Kathi will follow up with the Club for additional guidance.

**Fire Tower Challenge ("FTC") Chair Jim Schneider** reported on a meeting with Ben Brosseau of the Club staff and the Chair of the Schenectady Chapter, which sponsors the Northville-Placid Trail challenge. He discussed his reasons for wanting to reopen the FTC, even though the DEC-owned towers are still closed to the public. The Club proposed reopening both challenges on June 12<sup>th</sup>, but there was no consensus of the Ex. Comm. on reopening

the FTC. Jim said that he would hold off until July and would notify the Club of that.

**Education Chair Kim Brown** reported that DEC had not yet made a decision on whether the overnight children's camps would be open this summer.

**Membership Chair Pat Desbiens** reported that membership was a net minus 10 for April.

**Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen** reported that there had been no recent activity on the Palmertown Range planning process. Jim Schneider said that ADK had submitted a bid to Saratoga PLAN to do the planning work for the trails, which would be paid out of that group's recent \$500,000 grant award. If the Club gets this work, it will involve the Chapter in the project.

**Newsletter Chair Jen Ferriss** said that she will be editing the next edition of the newsletter this week.

**Mo Coutant** reported on the latest workday at the **ADK LG HQ**. There was a good turnout, and social distancing was maintained. The group may work on painting windows later this month.

**Banff Mountain Film Festival Ad Hoc Committee Chair Mo Coutant** reported that she still needs to send the checks to ACC for the contributions for its support of the event. She thinks that there may be more surplus proceeds that could be donated somewhere. Also, some of the money allocated last year for outings leaders training is still available for that purpose. The status of the 2020/2021 BMFF and world tour are still up in the air due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Gretchen Steen, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Caffry, Secretary

**Next meeting - July 8, 2020, 7:00, via ZOOM**