

**Minutes of the October 7, 2020 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., held via ZOOM**

Present: Kim Brown, John Caffry, Brian Coville, Pat Desbiens, Paul Dietershagen, Tom Ellis, Jen Ferriss, Emily Kane, Steve Mackey, Megan McLaughlin, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jen Shepherd, Gretchen Steen, and Bill Wasilauski. **Also present:** Maureen Coutant and Anne Paolano.

Chapter Chair Kathi Noble opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

The minutes of the August 5, 2020 meeting and the revised minutes of the September 2, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Brian Coville, seconded by Kim Brown.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the September Treasurer's Report. He expects that the September dues payment will be received from the Club in October. Total assets are \$15,279. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Jen Ferriss.

Kathi gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She does not expect to resume in person Ex. Comm. meetings soon. With the concurrence of the outgoing chair Jim Schneider, she has appointed **Tim Noble** (her husband) to be the **Fire Tower Challenge Committee Chair**. The committee will then consist of Tim, Jim, and Kathi. There were no objections.

Kathi also discussed the status of the **Wilderness Committee**. Jim Schneider has resigned as Chair, but all of the legal agreements with DEC are in his name. He is willing to continue to do the work, but does not want to be Chair and to have to attend Ex. Comm. meetings. Kathi and John Caffry discussed the history of the former Adopt-A-Wilderness program, which was once run by the Club Conservation Committee, but appears to have been dropped by the main Club. One option would be to amend the by-laws and merge this with the Trails Committee. John and Kathi suggested that this be addressed as part of a larger by-laws amendment package next year. No action was taken.

Kathi and John discussed the arrangements for the **Annual Meeting**, which will be conducted by ZOOM, at the beginning of the November Ex. Comm. meeting. The key is to get a quorum of 50 members participating, either by ZOOM or absentee ballot.

Kathi reported that the **Iroquois Chapter** would like other chapters to support its new Wilderness Area camping challenge. Megan McLaughlin said that the main Club has asked that chapter to hold off on this because of logistical issues with camping in some of these areas. No action was taken.

Kathi discussed whether to make the **annual donation to the main Club**. Because the Club did not make dues payments to the Chapter for several months due to the pandemic, the funds are not available. No action was taken and the issue will be reexamined in December.

Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen reported that he went to a meeting with Saratoga PLAN on the Lincoln Mountain State Forest area to examine access points. A lot of interest groups were there and many user groups will be sharing these trails.

Kathi reported for the **Fire Tower Challenge Committee**, in the absence of Chair Tim Noble. She said that the Goodnow Mountain tower group is fundraising for a repair project. It is not on the current list for annual Chapter donations. John Caffry said that the Club's certificate of incorporation lists donations to other groups as a corporate purpose of ADK, so that the Chapter can make donations to appropriate organizations. No action was taken, but the idea of replacing Refugees to Camp with this group will be discussed at a later date. Kathi also discussed Jim Schneider's idea about how Leave No Trace education could be incorporated into the FTC. She has about 30 completed letters to do and expects that this will be a record year.

Kathi reported that Jim Schneider is working on a **history of the Chapter** for the Club's 100th anniversary and is looking for information.

Newsletter Chair Jen Ferriss reported that the next edition in November will probably be electronic only.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that August was a net +12 members and one new affiliate. She mailed newsletters with absentee ballots to the members without listed e-mail addresses.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter reported that there had been very few outings so far since outings resumed, due to the COVID pandemic and the parking situation in the High Peaks. Wayne also stated his objections to the letter from the main Club which claimed that the chapters were bound by the Club Board's position on the **proposed Club by-laws amendments**. John Caffry agreed, stating that until the members approve the new by-laws, the Board's position is not legally binding on the chapters.

Anne Paolano reported that she is covering the **Chapter Programs** following the resignation of Sarah King as committee chair. The programs for the next few months are all set. They will be on ZOOM through the Saratoga Library's account. Attendance at the most recent ZOOM program was low, and ideas to increase attendance were discussed. Kathi threatened to appoint Anne as Programs Committee Chair at the next meeting and Anne did not strenuously object.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the ad-hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Committee, reported that the festival will take place in 2021, with live and online options, but she does not want to do the live version. The Chapter would get a percentage of online fees paid by people who register via the Chapter, and it might make \$300 to \$1,000. Kathi said that no vote was needed for the Chapter to sponsor this event again because it is an annual event.

Publicity Chair Jen Shepherd said that if she is elected as Chapter Chair, she will be looking for a replacement for the Publicity Committee.

Website Chair George Sammons reported that the database includes e-mail addresses for 1,400 Chapter members.

YMG Chair Megan McLaughlin said that she is leading a YMG outing soon. If it goes well, she will add more in the winter.

Director Bill Wasilauski reported that the Club received a donated gift of real estate, a house downstate, which will be sold for \$152,000. **Director Brian Coville** reported that the Club has a new insurance policy which will not cover cycling outings, so the Club is looking for supplemental coverage. It will send out information on what is covered and what is not.

Mo Coutant said that she attended the recent **Board meeting** as Chair of the Headquarters Committee. She said that there was a discussion of the proposed Club by-laws amendments. She felt that the Club leadership did not understand the chapters' point of view on the issues and that they were "dressing us down", despite their stated goal of working together with the chapters. About 3,000 ballots have been received so far, but not yet counted. At that meeting objections were voiced as to the speed of the process and the reactions of the leadership to objections, and there was a discussion of how this was handled. **Bill Wasilauski** said that the by-laws proposal was given to the Board on July 16th and the vote was on July 17th. It barely passed by the required 2/3 vote. The Board may address these issues at its December meeting. Some members of the Ex. Comm. discussed their objections to this process and their loss of trust in the Club's leadership.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Gretchen Steen, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – November 4, 7:00, via ZOOM.