

**Minutes of the March 3, 2021 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, Megan McLaughlin, Kathi Noble, Tim Noble, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jen Shepherd, Gretchen Steen, and Bill Wasilauski. **Also present:** Maureen Coutant and Bobbi Fitzgerald.

Chapter Chair Jen Shepherd opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the February 3, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Bill Wasilauski.

In the absence of Treasurer Steve Mackey, Jen presented the **February Treasurer's Report**. One month's dues were received. There were no major expenses. Total assets are \$20,371. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Kathi Noble.

Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen reported that he and Jim Schneider are trying to connect ADK Executive Director Michael Barrett with Maria Trabka of Saratoga PLAN so that they can see how the two groups can work together on the Palmertown Range project.

Fire Tower Challenge (FTC) Correspondent Kathi Noble reported for the committee that she,

Jim Schneider, and Committee Chair Tim Noble met with Seth Jones from the ADK staff to discuss the FTC proposal (copy attached). They hope to use the Club's new website for completer signups and other tasks. They are waiting for that to come online, which will delay the timeline in the proposal. Under the proposal, completers would get both a certificate and a patch. There was a discussion by the Ex. Comm. of other details in the proposal. When the proposal is final, it will be submitted to the Ex. Comm. for approval.

Kathi explained that the Club does not want to take over the challenges that are sponsored by chapters. The FTC would be overseen by a joint committee of 3 Chapter members and 2 Club staff. The Chapter's current FTC budget should still cover the expenses, but this would need to be evaluated as we progress. At this time it hasn't been determined if the challenge would become self-sufficient. The additional fees are intended for fire tower stewardship projects. There was a discussion by the Ex. Comm. of whether it would be appropriate to require FTC completers to do show evidence of completing stewardship activities to get a patch, or whether this should be optional. Under the proposal, finishers would be able to choose from several options.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that membership was up +7 net in January.

Newsletter Chair Jen Ferriss said that the next deadline was April 1st, but that was flexible.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter reported that a small number of leaders have led a small number of trips.

Programs Chair Anne Paolano said that the March program will be held on the Zoom Webinar platform, which is different from the regular Zoom format that has been used before.

Anne then discussed the **2021 Annual Dinner**. She is not sure whether the Annual Meeting will be held remotely or in person, so she has not yet started planning for the dinner. Nobody on the Ex. Comm. claimed to know what would happen by then vis-à-vis the pandemic. Among the options that were discussed was doing the meeting online again, but this time with a program. No action was taken.

Banff Mountain Film Festival (BMFF) Chair Mo Coutant reported that there were 24 signups in the past month. She has run some ads, and will continue to promote the event.

Jen reported for the **Publicity Committee**, in the absence of Chair Stephanie Gaudons. She said that Steph has been sending out press releases, and publicizing outings. Anne Paolano and Jen Ferris discussed ways to improve publicity for programs.

Website Chair George Sammons said that he will send out e-mail blasts for the BMFF soon.

Young Members Group Megan McLaughlin discussed the recent successful YMG hike and the upcoming hikes.

By-laws Special Committee Chair John Caffry said that there was nothing to report because he had been waiting to hear if there had been any action on further revisions to the Club by-laws. Since there has been no news of that, the committee will proceed with its work and not wait any longer for the Club.

Jen Shepherd said that **Brian Coville** had volunteered to Chair the **Nominating Committee** again. She then appointed him to that post. Jen and Mo Coutant offered to assist him. He said that he will assemble the committee.

Jen Shepherd said that the Club wants the Chapter to appoint its Trustee for the new **Advisory Council** by March 15th, but so far nobody has volunteered for the job. Options were discussed and Jen will check with the Club about them. No action was taken.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Brian Coville, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – April 7, 2021, 7:00, via ZOOM