

**Minutes of the April 7, 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, Stephanie Gaudons, Steve Mackey, Megan McLaughlin, Kathi Noble, Tim Noble, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, Jen Shepherd, Gretchen Steen, and Bill Wasilauski. **Also present:** Maureen Coutant and Charlene Kane.

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

The minutes of the March 3, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Kathi Noble, seconded by Kim Brown.

In the absence of Treasurer Steve Mackey, his written **March Treasurer's Report** was reviewed. One month's worth of dues was received from the Club, there were no expenses, and total assets are \$21,927. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Pat Desbiens, seconded by Brian Coville. Jim Schneider discussed the status of the Chapter's prior \$5,000 gift to the Club in honor of Dan Kane, to be used for the **Mt. Jo trail project**. He said that the Club is still holding it and is using it as "seed money" to fundraise for the total project cost of \$100,000. Planning for the project is moving ahead.

Jen gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She said that she had received an inquiry from a teenager who wanted to do community service work for ADK. Mo Coutant suggested that there may be opportunities for this at Club Headquarters.

Steve Mackey then joined the meeting.

Trustee Jim Schneider reported on the first meeting of the new **ADK Advisory Council** on March 30th. It was a large group, and it is working on a charter document to be approved by the Board of Directors. The theme will be "One ADK". The trustees' terms will have to be staggered. Items discussed included setting up Council committees, and how to integrate with existing committees and the chapters. It will take a couple of years for the transition to the new Board and Council structure to be completed.

Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen reported that the Saratoga County trails planning work is progressing. ADK Executive Director Michael Barrett has now spoken to Maria Trabka of Saratoga PLAN about how ADK can help with this project, such as by training volunteers and doing Leave No Trace training. **Co-Chair Amy Rutledge** said that the Club Conservation Committee did not meet in March because the Chair had resigned.

Fire Tower Challenge Co-Chair Tim Noble reported that the Committee is getting close to completing the new FTC proposal with the main Club, and is seeking input from the Executive Committee. **Co-Chair Kathi Noble** said that there were over 30 completer letters in the last month, and that there were more winter completers than in the past. Jim Schneider said that a new edition of the fire tower book is now being released.

Membership Chair Pat Desbiens reported that membership was net +16 for February and, with 1,620 households, Glens Falls-Saratoga is the largest chapter in ADK again. Due to COVID-19, she has no events planned.

Newsletter Chair Jen Ferriss said that she is planning the next issue now.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter said that the number of outings has increased. He is not sure how the new permit system at the Ausable Club will affect the ability to plan outings there.

Programs Chair Anne Paolano reported that the new ZOOM webinar format worked very well for the most recent program. Tammara Van Ryn's program on invasive species was very good. George Sammons said that the past ZOOM program meetings are available on the website. The April program will be about Alaska, by Peter Benoit. The May program will be Steve Englehart of AARCH talking about historic bridges of the Adirondacks, and the September program will be "John Brown Lives!", presented by the Friends of John Brown's Farm. She is looking into a possible program on National Parks for the October Annual Dinner (either live or online), and in November the program will be about Newcomb and the Upper Works. She will look into the Embassy Suites in Saratoga as a possible location for the **Annual Dinner** in case it is held live. She is working with the Saratoga library for all online programs.

Banff Mountain Film Festival (BMFF) Chair Mo Coutant said that there were 14 new viewers last month, and that she will be publicizing the current offerings.

Trails Chair Tom Ellis said that he is planning the annual Tongue Mountain trail work for this month.

Young Members Group Chair Meghan McLaughlin said that the group is still doing monthly outings.

Jen Shepherd reported on the **Instagram page** in the absence of Emily Kane. She said that the page has 285 followers and is promoting the BMFF. Emily is seeking new photos to post. **Aimee Rutledge** said that she is also seeking photos for the **Facebook page**, and will post links to the past programs on ZOOM.

Nominating Committee Chair Brian Coville said that Laura Fiske, Meghan McLaughlin, and Mo Coutant had agreed to be on the Committee. On a motion by Tim Noble, seconded by Steve Mackey, the Committee's membership was approved unanimously.

Chapter Chair Jen Shepherd suggested updating the **outings leaders** handbook and holding a leaders gathering. Jen asked if people follow up on the new member **volunteer request forms** that are completed and returned; some committee chairs said that they do so, and they occasionally get new volunteers that way. She also discussed how to get the outings publicized more online in real time.

Treasurer Steve Mackey began a discussion of making the rest of the budgeted **2020 contribution to the Club** at this time. Last fall the Chapter only paid half of the budgeted \$5,000 due to cash flow concerns caused by the Club's suspension of dues payments to the chapters. The Chapter now has a lot of cash, due in part to there being no DEC camps last year and the reduction in newsletter costs due to delivery to most members being made by e-mail. Jim Schneider offered to check with the Club to see what things it may need money for. No action was taken.

Steve also reported that the **rental snowshoes** had not been rented at all last winter, despite it being a good year for snowshoeing, so he was looking for a better way to do this. Kim Brown suggested offering them at no charge, as a community service, and doing it through the YMCA. She will talk to the Y. No action was taken.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Bill Wasilauski, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – May 5, 2021, 7:00, via ZOOM