

**Minutes of the September 8, 2021 Meeting of the Executive Committee of
The Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc.,
Held At ADK Headquarters, Lake George, New York, and via ZOOM**

Present: Kim Brown, John Caffry, Brian Coville, Paul Dietershagen, Tom Ellis, Jen Ferriss, Bobbi Fitzgerald, Emily Kane, Steve Mackey, Megan McLaughlin, Kathi Noble, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, and Gretchen Steen. **Also present:** Maureen Coutant and Jen Shepherd. [4 present in person; 14 online]

Acting Chapter Chair Brian Coville opened the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

The minutes of the June 2021 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Kathi Noble, seconded by Megan McLaughlin. **Secretary John Caffry** also reported on the results of an e-mail vote held in August. At the request of Anne Paolano, Brian called for a vote on whether the Chapter should subsidize the **ticket cost for the Annual Dinner** at a price of \$30. Due to the timing of the newsletter notice of the meeting, as required by the by-laws, it was necessary to hold an e-mail vote before the September Ex. Comm. meeting. John reported that the resolution passed 17-0, exceeding the number of votes required under the by-laws.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the June, July, and August Treasurer's Reports. Three months of dues were received from the Club, along with revenue from the Fire Tower Challenge ("FTC"). Major expenses included a donation to the Club and the deposit for the Annual Dinner. Total assets are \$28,327. The reports were approved unanimously on a motion by Kim Brown, seconded by Anne Paolano. Kathi Noble reported that an additional donation of \$135 was recently received from a FTC completer.

Brian Coville reported that Chapter Chair Jen Shepherd had resigned over the summer because she had accepted a job with ADK, and the Chapter by-laws prohibit a Club employee from being a Chapter officer. He also said that First Vice-Chair Laurie Williams had then said that she was not able or willing to become Chapter Chair. Thus, upon Jen's resignation, as Second Vice-Chair, he had become Acting Chair. Kathi Noble made a motion to appoint **Brian to fill the vacancy as Chapter Chair** for the remainder of the year. The motion was seconded by John Caffry and approved unanimously, with Brian abstaining.

Brian made a motion to appoint **Kim Brown as Second Vice-Chair** to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the year. The motion was seconded by Wayne Richter and approved unanimously.

Brian announced that Pat Desbiens had resigned as **Membership Chair**, and that he had then appointed **Bobbi Fitzgerald** as the new committee chair.

Brian presented **Trustee Jim Schneider's** written report, which will be incorporated into these minutes.

Director Brian Coville reported on the recent actions of the **Club Board of Directors**: it authorized listing the Headquarters property in Lake George for sale – if an offer is received, the Board would have to approve it; it authorized the purchase of the Cascade Ski Touring Center

outside of Lake Placid; the Board dissolved the New York Chapter, which has now sued the Club. Megan McLaughlin said that there were no offers on the Lake George property yet; the Cascade purchase is going ahead; if the Headquarters is sold, the new one would be in the Glens Falls area. John Caffry discussed the history of the Headquarters property purchase circa 1990, which he had been involved in: its location within the Adirondack Park was important to the Club at the time; it had been hoped that it would become a major information center at the gateway to the Adirondacks, but this project had never been pursued by the Club.

Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen said that there had been no information received from the Club since the Club Conservation Committee was dissolved. Co-Chair Aimee Rutledge said that the members of the Club committee had been relieved of their duties in June, and that the Club will be looking for all new members. She said that there will be a loss of knowledge at the Club with the removal of the older members. The local committee will now focus on local matters instead. John Caffry, who was on the Club committee from 1987 to 2021, gave the background on this. He said that the Chapter can continue to take actions on conservation issues so long as its positions do not conflict with any official Club positions. Kim Brown brought up the issue of NYSDOT recently using herbicides on roads near Lake George; she has been in touch with the Lake George Waterkeeper about this. John said that this is the kind of thing that the Chapter can take action on, with the approval of the Ex. Comm. Aimee asked Kim to give her information on this.

FTC Co-Chair Kathi Noble reported that the trail to the Swede Mountain tower had recently opened, and was now listed on the FTC. It will close soon for hunting season, temporarily. The trail is a nice trail, and should be busy. Hamilton County is trying to get the Buck Mountain tower, which is on private property in Long Lake, opened to the public. A trail is being built, but it is not yet ready, so it is not listed on the FTC. The tower itself is unclimbable. So far this year there are 130 completers. The average for a full year is about 100, and she expects this year to be about double that.

Newsletter Chair Jen Ferriss reported that the September newsletter is out. It includes the proposed new by-laws and the Annual Dinner notice. The next deadline is October 1st.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter reported that, as usual, a small number of leaders are leading a small number of outings, which do seem to be going well.

Programs Chair Anne Paolano reported that the September program will be online. She later said that it will have to be postponed due to a problem with the speaker's schedule.

Anne said that the **Annual Dinner** is still planned to be an in-person meeting. The hotel says that it is doing well with in-person events. She will send out e-mail reminders to the members. Aimee and Emily have put it on the social media sites. Treasurer Steve Mackey offered to take payments online via Venmo. The option of sending out postcard reminders was discussed, but no action was taken at this time. The need to monitor the number of reservations to make sure that there would be a quorum was discussed. Anne will check on ADK's and the venue's mask policies. John Caffry said that we may need to send out proxies like last year in order to get a quorum and that there could be an online option to help do so; no action was taken. There was a

discussion of whether to refund money to people who cancel; no action was taken. Anne said that the venue requires a 5 day notice.

Treasurer Steve Mackey said that he is looking into whether to pay the Post Office on account in advance for **mailing the newsletter**, or whether to pay by the issue. Pat Desbiens is still doing the mailings.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee, said that new online 2021 programs are still being released; she will publicize this. There will be online programs again in 2022, and possibly also live programs.

Brian presented **Wilderness Chair Jim Schneider's** written report, which will be incorporated into these minutes.

YMG Chair Megan McLaughlin reported that the sunset hikes are done for the summer. They were often rained out, but the last, at Moreau Lake State Park, drew about a dozen people.

By-laws Special Committee Chair John Caffry reported that the notice of the proposed new by-laws was duly sent out in the recent newsletter. If they are approved, the Committee's work will be done.

Aimee Rutledge said that she will post the FTC updates and Annual Dinner information on the social media pages.

Nominating Committee Chair Brian Coville reported that the notice of the 2022 slate of nominees was published in the recent newsletter. The nominees are: Chapter Chair – Brian Coville; Second Vice-Chair – Kim Brown; Treasurer – Steve Mackey; Secretary – John Caffry; Member-at-Large – Maureen Coutant; and Trustee – Jim Schneider. Brian thanked the people who helped the Committee. There will still be vacancies for First Vice-Chair and Ex. Comm. Member-at-Large (2) that will have to be filled by the Ex. Comm.

Brian gave the **Chapter Chair's report**. He said that the Club has received a report from NYCON on its **new by-laws**, but has not yet released it. He will follow up on getting a copy. He also said that since we gave the Club \$2,500 for work on the **Headquarters building**, the building has been put up for sale. John Caffry said that since this was a restricted gift, if the Club wants to use the money for another purpose, it will have to check with the Chapter first.

Brian said that he is working on updating the **Ex. Comm. job descriptions** and asked the members to send him updates on theirs.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by John Caffry, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – October 6th, 7:00, location & format TBA