

**Minutes of the January 5, 2022 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the
Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., held via ZOOM**

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

Chapter Chair Brian Coville opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the December 1, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Kim Brown, seconded by Maureen Coutant.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the December Treasurer's Report. He reported that dues payments for October and November were received from the Main Club. The major expenses were the newsletter and the books that the Chapter donated to 3 libraries. Total year-end assets were \$33,745. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Jen Ferriss, seconded by Wayne Richter.

Outgoing Director Brian Coville reported on the December meeting of the former Club Board of Directors. The Club is working on developing the **new Chapter budget process**, now that funding for chapters will be limited to whatever the Club decides to give them, rather than giving them a fixed percentage of the dues paid by chapter members. Representatives from some chapters are on the subcommittee that is working on this. Trustee Jim Schneider said that there has been no communication from the Club on this, and there is no plan. Brian will reach out and offer to be part of the Club's process.

Trustee Jim Schneider referred to his written report, which was previously submitted. A copy is attached to these minutes. Members of the Ex. Comm. thanked Jim for his report.

Mo Coutant, reporting as Chair of the **Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee**, said that the program will be available both live and online this year. Live tickets are not yet sold out; tickets are \$22, not \$20, as she previously reported. Rick's Bike Shop, a new sponsor, has donated a large package of prizes. She will also raffle off a large print donated by Jack Freeman. She anticipates that the total profit will be several thousand dollars. Volunteers are needed for a membership table.

Education Chair Kim Brown reported a good response on this year's camperships, with 10 applications so far.

Fire Tower Challenge Chair Tim Noble discussed plans for a fire tower work day. The new FTC page is not yet up on the new Club website – he will follow up. FTC Correspondent Kathi Noble said that there were 162 adult completers last year, 11 children, and 32 winter completers, which was the most winter completers ever. Her written report is attached.

Membership Chair Bobbi Fitzgerald reported that current membership is 2,514, a net loss of 6 since the prior month.

Newsletter Chair Jen Ferris said that the January issue is out. The next deadline is February 1st-ish. She has been working on the North County National Scenic Trail project and will distribute information about pending legislation affecting it.

Outings Co-Chairs Wayne Richter and Jen Shepherd reported that only 4 outings are planned for January, and just 1 for February. A planned social meeting for outings leaders has been postponed due to COVID.

Programs Chair Anne Paolano said that the programs for January, March, and April are set. January's will be on Zoom. She is not yet sure about the others. There are no speakers set for any of the fall programs yet.

Trails Committee Co-Chair Jim Schneider reported that the northern Tongue Mountain trail is looking good. He has been talking to the Club about starting a trailhead steward program in the Lake George area. Both DEC and the Capital District ADK chapters have been supportive so far, and he is looking for volunteers.

Website Chair George Sammons said that he has been updating the website. He will send out an e-mail blast on the upcoming program meeting soon.

YMG Chair Megan McLaughlin reported that she led a First Day hike on New Year's Day, with 9 attendees. She will add some YMG hikes soon.

Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen said that he has reviewed the Palmertown area draft master plan, and gave a brief outline. He suggested that the Chapter invite the planners to give a program to the Chapter. He will send out a link to the plan.

Outgoing Director Bill Wasilauski reported on his last meeting as a member of the Club Board of Directors, after 6 years. The slate of new directors and another set of bylaws amendments were approved. The purchase of the Cascade Ski Touring Center is proceeding.

Chair Brian Coville made a motion to appoint **Kim Brown as First Vice-Chair**, to fill a vacancy. The motion was seconded by John Caffry, and approved unanimously, with Kim abstaining. Brian will now look for someone to replace Kim as Second Vice-Chair.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the proposed 2022 budget. Last year the Chapter only spent about \$11,000 because there were no camperships due to COVID and no donations were made to the Club. Revenues were about twice that amount. Steve recommended that we not plan for any donations to the Club until we see what happens with the new chapter share process. He will add \$5,000 to the proposed budget for the anticipated final 3 dues payments from the Club before it cuts off payments. Budgeted newsletter costs are down; campership funding is up.

Jim Schneider urged that the Chapter hold onto as much cash as possible due to the uncertainties around funding from the Club. He also recommended that the Chapter cash in the \$5,000 “chapter note” that is owed to the Chapter by the Club when it comes due, and that the Chapter should submit a request for Club funding under the new system in August. John Caffry opined that based on historical performance, the Club is overdue for a financial crisis.

John made a motion to **approve the budget**, as presented, with the \$5,000 in dues revenue added in. The motion was seconded by Kim Brown and approved unanimously. Steve will revise the budget and circulate it.

John made a motion that, when the **chapter note comes due in February**, the Chapter will request that the Club pay us what is owed on this [\$5,602 including accrued interest]. The motion was seconded by Wayne Richter and approved unanimously.

Chair Brian Coville presented the list of **proposed special donations**, which is identical to the 2021 list. The list includes 17 donations of \$75 each. Jim said that the Club’s Executive Director has continued to claim, without proof, that chapters are making improper donations to ineligible organizations. On a motion by Kathi Noble, seconded by Gretchen Steen, the list was unanimously approved. Mo Coutant said that she is on the Club’s Audit Committee and that there is no evidence of any problem with the chapters’ donations.

There then followed a discussion of whether or not to make any **donations to the Club** at this time. There are unspent funds for this in the 2021 budget, and no funds for it in the 2022 budget. John Caffry said that traditionally, the Ex. Comm. has voted each year on whether or not to pay this budgeted expense. No motions were made; no action was taken. Mo said that the raffle at the Banff Film Festival will benefit the Summit Steward program, and there were no objections.

Brian reported that the **Chapter Handbook** is out of date. He suggested removing it from the website and updating it. Hearing no objections, he said that he and Jim will work on this.

Brian announced that at least until April, all **Ex. Comm. meetings** will be online.

Jim Schneider said that he is working on an **oral history project for ADK**, which will cost about \$5,000 to set up and about \$1,500 to run annually. The Club has refused to fund this, so he is looking for other funding.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Gretchen Steen, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary

Next meeting – February 2d, @ 7:00, via ZOOM