

**Corrected Minutes of the March 1, 2023 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, Thomas Khairallah, Steve Mackey, Jeff Mans, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen.

Chapter Chair Brian Coville opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

The minutes of the March 1, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Kim Brown, seconded by Brian Coville.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the February Treasurer's Report. The special donations were all paid, as was one of the camperships. Total assets are \$27,036. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Brian Coville, seconded by John Caffry.

Brian gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. The Chapter's budget payments from the Main Club are to be paid at the start of each quarter. The Chapter has been asked if it wants to participate in the City of Glens Falls Earth Day celebration in April. After some discussion, no action was taken.

Trustee Thomas Khairallah reported that two of the Main Club's member services staff are leaving. The dues class tiers will be changing and dues will be going up for some of them. He will look into the specifics.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee, reported that the raffle at this year's event netted around \$1,700 and the art sale netted \$136, for a total of \$1,812, which will be donated to the Summit Stewards program. The free refreshments only cost \$50, which she thinks was a worthwhile expenditure. The net from ticket sales and sponsors was about \$5,000. There is now over \$14,600 in the Banff account. She suggested donating \$5,000 of this to the Summit Stewards. No action was taken. More donations can be made, but she wants to keep \$5,000 in the Banff account as a reserve, in part because of the change in Main Club payments to the Chapter. It was discussed that the Main Club does not count the Banff funds towards the Chapter's budget. There was a discussion of how some of the funds could be used to support the Buck Mountain Trailhead Stewards.

Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen reported that he is now a trail steward for Saratoga PLAN and has worked on three projects.

Education Chair Kim Brown said that she has awarded another campership.

Brian reported for the **Membership Committee**, due to the vacancy in the committee chair position. The written report shows a net loss of 18 total members from December to January. The Chapter continues to be the largest Chapter in ADK.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter reported that he will be getting the bike outing insurance policy which was previously authorized. There are already 3 bike outings planned.

Programs Chair Anne Paolano said that the April and May programs will be live programs at the library in Saratoga. She is working on the fall lineup. She reported that **Annual Dinner attendance** has been down since the Covid pandemic: 2017-100; 2018-84; 2019-126; 2020-cancelled; 2021-55; 2022-46. She asked whether the Chapter should drop this event due to the declining attendance. The Chapter lost money in 2022 due to low attendance. She does not want to drop it, but is concerned. It was agreed that the Chapter should keep holding it because people are starting to go out more, post-pandemic, and it is a good way for members to connect to each other. John Caffry said that dropping it would require a by-laws amendment. It was agreed to monitor the situation. Anne will look for a program for 2023.

Aimee Rutledge reported on what she has been doing to publicize the Chapter's activities on its **social media** accounts.

Jim Schneider discussed planning for the upcoming **Buck Mountain Trailhead Stewards** season. The Main Club is holding a symposium at Heart Lake to train volunteer stewards at the end of the month. He asked that the Chapter pay for the meals for the participants, to be paid out of its regular budget, not the Banff funds. Gretchen Steen made a motion, seconded by Jeff Mans, to pay up to \$1,800.00 to the Main Club to cover the cost of meals for the **volunteer stewards' symposium** to be held at Heart Lake at the end of March, on two conditions: (1) that the Chapter receive recognition for doing this; and (2) that there be an itemized accounting of these costs. The motion passed on a vote of 11 in favor, 1 opposed, and two abstentions.

Brian Coville reported that the Main Club has asked if the Chapter wants to participate in the **Adirondack Sports & Fitness Expo** in Saratoga this month, along with other chapters. The Chapter's share of the cost would be \$132. On a motion by Brian, seconded by Steve Mackey, this was approved by a vote of 12 to 2. This will be paid out of the Membership budget.

Jeff Mans asked that the Chapter support his idea to ask the Main Club to ask DEC to reopen old logging roads in the High Peaks Wilderness Area which DEC had dug up after the land became part of the Forest Preserve several years ago. He thinks these roads would make good hiking and ski trails and does not understand why DEC dug them up. John Caffry first disclosed his involvement with Protect the Adirondacks, which has filed a lawsuit against APA in a similar, but factually different case. John then explained his opinion that what Jeff wanted DEC to do was not legal or feasible under the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan and the High Peaks Wilderness Complex Unit Management Plan. After further discussion, Jim Schneider suggested that Jeff ask the Main Club's staff about its position on this issue. Conservation Co-Chair Aimee Rutledge pointed out that on issues like this, chapters must follow Main Club policy. No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary