

**Minutes of the May 3, 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, Jen Ferriss, Thomas Khairallah, Steve Mackey, Kathi Noble, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen.

Chapter Chair Brian Coville opened the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

The minutes of the April 5, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Mo Coutant, seconded by Kathi Noble.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the April Treasurer's Report. There was no income. As approved at a prior meeting, \$1,342 was donated from the Chapter's regular bank account to the Main Club to pay for food at the stewards training program at Heart Lake. Total assets are \$29,742. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Kathi Noble, seconded by Thomas Khairallah.

Brian gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. He has registered the Chapter to table at the Wilton Wildlife Preserve's festival on June 4th. He and others will staff the table. He is waiting to hear back from the Main Club about the accounting issue with the Chapter's Banff bank account.

Trustee Thomas Khairallah reported that the Main Club has adopted the outings leaders guidelines. Some changes were made in response to comments from the Advisory Council, but not all of its suggestions were adopted. The Advisory Council meets soon, and he and Mo Coutant will attend. Outings Chair Wayne Richter said that a lot of things in the guidelines are still unclear.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee, said that she is still waiting to hear from the Banff organization on the schedule for next year. Because the Banff funds accounting issue with the Main Club is still not resolved, the proposed donation to the Main Club is on hold.

Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen reported that he went to a Saratoga PLAN outing at the Wilton Wildlife Preserve with a biologist who discussed invasive species; he may be available to do a program meeting for the Chapter. **Co-Chair Aimee Rutledge** said that she is looking into the solar energy project in the Washington County Grasslands Important Bird Area, the Moreau biochar project, and the Crossett Lake sale and development in West Fort Ann. Tom Ellis and Gretchen Steen disclosed that part of the solar project is on their land. **Jim Schneider** discussed the proposed amendment to Article 14 of the Constitution for the Cathead Mountain fire tower land exchange, which is currently going nowhere fast in the Legislature.

Newsletter Chair Jen Ferriss said that she is looking for submissions for the next edition by June 2nd.

Brian reported for the **Nominating Committee**, in the absence of Chair Pat Desbiens. He said that Pat has recommended Mo Coutant, Laura Fiske, and Marjorie Litwin as the Committee's members. This was unanimously approved on a motion by Brian, seconded by Kim Brown.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter asked **Mo Coutant** to report on her recent discussion with Deb Donohue, a former Chapter Ex. Comm. member, who is now the head of the Washington County DPW, about plowing at the Pilot Knob & Buck Mt. trailhead parking lot. Deb told Mo that the County used to plow it, but stopped doing so due to a disagreement with DEC. Jim Schneider said that he will discuss this with his trailhead stewards contacts at DEC. Mo and Jim will work on trying to resolve this problem. Wayne thanked Jen Ferris for how well the **Jayne Boudier tribute** in the newsletter came out.

Programs Chair Anne Paolano discussed the plans for this year's Annual Dinner, which will be held on October 20th at the Embassy Suites in Saratoga. There is a room charge of \$525, but no minimum attendance requirement. Steve Mackey will present a program on his trip to Antarctica. Anne recommended having a buffet dinner instead of a plated dinner because it will cost less. It was agreed that the Chapter will pay \$.80 per person to round the cost of the buffet down to \$40.00. Anne also discussed the plans for upcoming monthly programs and asked Aimee and George to publicize them. Attendance at recent programs has been around 50 people.

Trails Co-Chair Tom Ellis reported that last week 6 people went to the Chapter's adopted Tongue Mountain trail and cleared blowdown. **Co-Chair Jim Schneider** reported that there are 14 volunteers for the Buck Mountain trailhead stewards this year, 5 of whom are new. Their training will be completed soon. He is also planning this year's Pharoah Lake Wilderness Area trail work.

Website Chair George Sammons said that he has not received the updated membership list from the Main Club staff since March. It was discussed that this may be due to recent staff turnover, and Brian will check on it.

Education Chair Kim Brown reported that the DEC camps may not be open again this summer, so she will evaluate whether or not the Chapter should continue to offer camperships to kids who get approved, but then don't get to go to camp.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Brian Coville, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Caffry, Secretary