

**Minutes of the September 13, 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, Tom Ellis, Thomas Khairallah, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. **Also present:** Pat Desbiens.

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

The minutes of the June 7, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Brian, seconded by Mo Coutant.

Brian Coville presented the September **Treasurer's Report**, in the absence of Treasurer Steve Mackey. Total income for the last 3 months was \$235, all of it being from Fire Tower Challenge ("FTC") patches. Total expenses for the same period were \$842, mostly for the newsletter. Total assets are \$21,396. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by John Caffry, seconded by Brian.

Brian gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. The information necessary for members to request absentee ballots for the Annual Meeting is in the recently published newsletter. He can not attend the meeting due to a schedule conflict with his job. Vice-Chair Kim Brown agreed to chair the meeting. Brian also requested that Executive Committee members update their **job descriptions**.

Trustee Thomas Khairallah reported on the most recent Advisory Council meeting. He has distributed notes about what was discussed. He discussed the Main Club's new data management system which will also be used for some chapter functions.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee, reported that planning for the 2024 event is proceeding. She has a very active committee, including one new member.

Education Chair Kim Brown said that the Moreau Lake State Park Naturefest was canceled this year, so she will not be needing volunteers for it. She hopes that it will resume in 2024.

FTC Committee Member Jim Schneider reported that the new trail up (the other) Buck Mountain, the one in Hamilton County, is now open, and this tower will be added to the FTC. The Main Club's online FTC 2.0 is now progressing. He and Kathi and Tim Noble recently met with the staff to discuss it, and it is projected to launch in May 2024. It will allow completers to upload their information online, which will mean less paperwork for the Committee.

Hospitality Chair Gretchen Steen said that she will attend the September program meeting and will provide refreshments.

Brian reported for the **Membership Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. For April and May, total households were unchanged, total voting members were up 3, and total members were down 2. The Chapter remains the largest in the Club.

Brian reported for the **Newsletter Committee**, in the absence of Chair Jen Ferriss. Mo Coutant will be helping Jen produce the next edition.

Nominating Committee Chair Pat Desbiens reported on the slate for the upcoming Chapter election. Brian thanked her for her work. Pat said that she had a good committee and was happy to report that there was a full slate this year, including the hard to fill 2nd Vice chair spot. The nominees are: Chapter

Chair: Kim Brown; 1st Vice Chair: Laura Fiske; 2nd Vice Chair: Jess Krause; Treasurer: Steve Mackey; Secretary: John Caffry; Members-at-Large: Thomas Khairallah, Jeff Mans, and Kathi Noble; Trustee: Maureen Coutant. Their bios are in the recent newsletter. No action by the Ex. Comm. was required.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter discussed the outings numbers for the year, which continue to be low. He said that he thinks the Main Club's new outings leader training requirements are going to cause the Chapter to lose leaders. Some of the existing leaders are having problems figuring out the system. There ensued a discussion of how the Chapter can help leaders pay for the required training programs. These costs might be reimbursed to the Chapter by the Main Club. The Club is also offering some free training, but it is not communicating these opportunities to the chapters and leaders very well. There was a discussion of the need for feedback to help fine tune the training requirements.

Programs Chair Anne Paolano asked George Sammons to send out an e-mail reminder about the September 20th program. She is working on getting programs for the rest of the year. The programs will continue to be held at the Saratoga Springs Public Library because Crandall Library in Glens Falls is too hard to work with on scheduling.

Anne reported on the **Annual Dinner**. There is about \$300 in fees. The dinner will be a buffet dinner at \$40.80 per person, and Chapter will cover the \$0.80, so members will be charged \$40.00. Main Club Stewardship Manager Kayla White will attend and speak on behalf of the Club; the Chapter will pay for her dinner. The program will be Steve and Licia Mackey speaking about their recent trip to Antarctica.

Trails Co-Chair Jim Schneider reported that the Buck Mountain trailhead stewardship program will continue until Canadian Thanksgiving in October. This year there were about 105 contacts on the peak day and 1,095 year-to-date. Last year there were 792 for the full year. Mo Coutant will follow up with the Washington County DPW about plowing the parking lot this winter.

Website Chair George Sammons said that long-term, he wants to look for a new webmaster to take over from him. He said that the Chapter should consider buying a computer to host the website, which would make the transition a lot easier.

Chair Brian Coville presented the draft **2024 Chapter budget** which had been prepared by Steve Mackey, based on 2023 spending levels. The Ex. Comm. decided to increase certain items, based on requests from committee chairs, and to add new items. Even though the FTC 2.0 system should reduce the Chapter's costs in 2024, this line was left at 2023 levels since it is not certain when the new system will be online, and to cover transition costs. The donation to the Summit Stewards program was deleted because the Main Club had disapproved it last year, seeing no reason for it to provide funds to make donations to itself. The budget, as revised, was approved unanimously on a motion by John Caffry, seconded by Anne Paolano. Brian will make the revisions; he and Mo will check it over, and then send it to Steve for submission to the Main Club for approval. It will also be circulated to the Ex. Comm.

Brian presented two items of **new business**. He would like the Ex. Comm. members to submit ideas for a **survey of Chapter members**. He also discussed the **Warren County Outdoor Recreation Economy Strategic Plan** which is being developed – the County is looking for input from the community. Kim and Mo offered to participate in the planning process on behalf of the Chapter.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by John Caffry, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary