

**Minutes of the December 6, 2023 Meeting of the Executive Committee of the  
Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., held at the  
Saratoga Springs Public Library, Saratoga Springs, New York, and via ZOOM**

**Present:** Kim Brown, John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Brian Coville, Paul Dietershagen, Tom Ellis, Jen Ferriss, Steve Mackey, Jeff Mans, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen.

**Chapter Chair Brian Coville** opened the meeting at 7:20 p.m., following a potluck supper for those who attended the meeting in person.

**The minutes** of the November 1, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Jim Schneider, seconded by Tom Ellis.

**Treasurer Steve Mackey** presented the November Treasurer's Report. The only income was \$120 for Fire Tower Challenge fees. Expenses were \$1,455, with the largest item being \$1,141 for the newsletter. Total assets are \$19,583. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Mo Coutant, seconded by Brian Coville.

Brian gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. There has been no response yet from the Main Club on the Chapter's 2024 budget proposal. He thanked the Committee members for all of their help and support during his time serving as Chair. The members praised and thanked him for his work.

**Alternate Trustee Mo Coutant** said that there is an Advisory Committee meeting coming up soon. There have been proposals for more improvements to the outings leader guidelines.

**Mo Coutant, as Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee**, thanked that Committee for its work. She said that she expects tickets to sell out again. There will be a different program each of the three nights. She is collecting donations for door prizes and is working on publicity.

**Conservation Co-Chair Paul Dietershagen** gave an update on the status of public access to the Graphite Range in the Palmertown area.

**Education Chair Kim Brown** thanked the members who made suggestions for contacts for campership applications. She has reached out to them.

**Jim Schneider** reported for the **Fire Tower Challenge (FTC) Committee**, in the absence of Chair Tim Noble. He shared the new certificates that will be given to future completers under FTC 2.0. The brochure will also be updated. There are ongoing discussions as to how the funds will be controlled. FTC 2.0 is supposed to start in May 2024.

Brian reported for the **Membership Committee**, due to there being no committee chair. Membership numbers as of October are down a bit for both the Chapter and Club-wide. GF-S is still the largest chapter. [Households: 1,318; Voting: 1,944; Total Chapter Memberships: 2,077]

**Newsletter Chair Jen Ferris** said that she is working on the next edition, which will go out soon. She announced that she will be resigning, and that the March issue will be her last.

**Outings Chair Wayne Richter** discussed his annual report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. The number of outings and the number of leaders are both down about 50% compared to pre-COVID numbers. Only about 15 leaders have expressed interest in getting certified under the new Main Club guidelines, which could further affect these numbers. He thanked Mo Coutant for getting Washington County to plow the Buck Mountain trailhead parking lot this winter, and will write a thank you letter to the County. He said that the schedule of winter outings is pretty thin.

**Programs Chair Anne Paolano** discussed the upcoming programs.

**Trails Co-Chair Jim Schneider** reported that the bridge on the trail on the southern approach to Pharoah Lake has still not been replaced. The Main Club will be hiring a staff person to coordinate the volunteer adopt-a-trail and adopt-a-lean-to programs, which used to be done by volunteers. He will be recruiting Buck Mountain trailhead stewards for 2024.

**Website Chair George Sammons** said that Thomas Khairallah has been helping with the Mailchimp e-mail blasts, but he has not yet found someone to take over the website.

**Member-at-Large Jeff Mans** reported that he has been talking to the Main Club about problems with the indemnity clause of the new outings release form. He recommended continuing to use the old form until these problems are resolved.

**Jim Schneider** discussed the Chapter's involvement in the Warren County Outdoor Recreation Economy Strategic Plan process. He and Kim Brown, and Julia Goren from the Main Club's staff, attended a recent meeting and gave input.

The **Committee's members thanked Brian** for his service as Chapter Chair and encouraged him to stay involved.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, which was approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary