

**Minutes of the January 3, 2024 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, Laura Fiske, Thomas Khairallah, Jess Krause, Steve Mackey, Jeff Mans, Kathi Noble, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. **Also present:** Sue Atwell, Pat Desbiens, and Ray Ross.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

The minutes of the December 6, 2023 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Kathi Noble, seconded by Jeff Mans.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the year-end 2023 Treasurer's Report. Income in December was \$75 in Fire Tower Challenge (FTC) completer payments and a \$5 donation to the FTC. Expenses were \$479 for the newsletter and \$419 for outings leader training. Total assets were \$18,649. For the full year, income was \$4,341 and expenses were \$13,021. The loss was due to the Main Club not giving the Chapter any money, while it waits for the Chapter to spend down all of the money that it has previously saved up [over the last 95+ years]. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by John Caffry, seconded by Kathi Noble.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee, reported that everything is going well. The Friday and Saturday evening shows are sold out, but tickets are still available for Sunday afternoon. The Committee is still looking for raffle prizes and door prizes.

Conservation Committee Co-chair Paul Dietershagen updated the Ex. Comm. on activities on the Graphite Range. **Co-chair Aimee Rutledge** discussed the Moreau Lake State Park planning process.

Kim reported for the **Education Committee**, due to the lack so far of a new chair to replace her after she became Chapter Chair. She is continuing to do the work while looking for a new chair. She was able to distribute the campership information widely through schools and is receiving applications. The application deadline for the DEC camps is in March.

FTC Correspondent Kathi Noble reported on behalf of absent Committee Chair Tim Noble. She said that there were 158 completers in 2023, which was down a little from 2022. She reported on the statistics for the most popular towers over the last few years. FTC 2.0 has not started yet, but the Committee is meeting about this with the Main Club staff in February.

Hospitality Chair Gretchen Steen reported that she purchased an EMS gift certificate for outgoing Chapter Chair Brian Coville as a thank you gift from the Chapter for his service. She got a \$100 certificate on sale for \$80.

Kim reported for the **Membership Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. Total membership was down by 19 from October to November, but GF-S is still the largest chapter.

Newsletter Chair Jen Ferris said that the next deadline is February 3rd. She discussed a potential successor for her position. There followed a lengthy discussion about whether to continue with the mailed version of the newsletter. Pat Desbiens said that she still does the mailings, and about 240 members still get it this way, often because they do not have good internet access; if this version is discontinued, they should get advance notice. Thomas Khairallah said that per Mailchimp, only about 65% of the members who get the e-mail version actually open it. The candidate's qualifications and experience were discussed. Jen will talk to the candidate and see how the mailings might work if they are appointed. Kathi Noble said that although the Chapter Chair appoints committee chairs, discontinuing the mailed version would be a change of policy that would require Ex. Comm. approval; John Caffry agreed.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter said that he is asking the trip leaders to submit bios which would be posted on the website. The insurance for bicycle outings needs to be renewed, which he will take care of. He attended a webinar on issues for that policy for the upcoming year. The insurance worked out well last year. He also discussed a trove of old outings documents which has been offered to the Chapter, and what might be done with them. No action was taken.

Programs Chair Anne Paolano discussed the upcoming programs. Kathi suggested holding a program at the Common Roots brewery in South Glens Falls. Others agreed with the idea of looking for new places to hold programs in Glens Falls because it is hard to reserve the rooms at Crandall Library in advance. Anne will look into it.

Trails Co-chair Jim Schneider said that he is working on the Buck Mountain trailhead stewards program for this year, and is looking for more people to sign up to be stewards.

Website Chair George Sammons reported that Thomas is now handling the e-mail blasts. Thomas discussed the Main Club's new iMIS membership management program. He also said that the Club likes the Chapter's website, which it may use it as a template for other chapter websites. The Club's consultants will rebuild the Chapter's website while they are at it. He volunteered to take over the website's management once this is done. It will not require any additional hardware or licenses.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown asked about payment of **expense reimbursements for outings leader training** from the 2023 budget. Wayne said that he did not expect any more to be submitted. This led to a general discussion of such reimbursements and the myriad problems with the Main Club's rollout of the training mandate and costs for the training.

Kim began a discussion of the **2024 budget**, including the Main Club's disallowance of the use of budgeted Chapter funds for **outings leader training** reimbursements other than first aid courses, on the premise that the Club would be providing all other necessary training free of charge. This had been part of the Chapter's proposed budget. However, it is not yet clear that the Club will actually offer adequate free training opportunities. Steve suggested paying for this out of prior years' surplus funds and Brian Coville said that this would be permissible. Another

option that was discussed was paying for this out of Banff Film Festival profits, as has been done in the past. Mo, Brian, Wayne, and Laura will look into this and come back with a proposal at the next meeting. The 2024 budget, as modified by the Main Club, was unanimously approved on a motion by John, seconded by Laura.

Kim announced that she had appointed **Ray Ross as Membership Committee Chair**. Pat Desbiens will hand off the committee's materials to him.

Kim asked whether the Chapter wanted to share a booth at the **Adirondack Summer Sports Expo** in Saratoga Springs with other chapters in the region as it had done in the past, and to share the cost of the booth. It was agreed that no Ex. Comm. action was needed if the Membership Committee wanted to do this and pay for it out of its approved budget.

Steve Mackey reported that the Gage Brook trails at the **Lake George Rec. Center** need work. Some of the land is owned by the Village, some by Lake George Land Conservancy, and some by the State. He will look into what could be done to help.

Kim asked whether **future Ex. Comm. meetings** should be held in person or online. Most of the members favored doing hybrid meetings. She will look into this.

Jeff Mans reported that he is working with Michael Barrett at the Main Club on the **outings liability waiver form**, which needs to be revised.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by John Caffry, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary