

**Minutes of the February 5, 2025 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, Laura Fiske, Jessica Krause, Steve Mackey, Jeff Mans, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, Liz Rovers, George Sammons, and Gretchen Steen.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown opened the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

The minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Laura Fiske, seconded by Kathi Noble.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the January Treasurer's Report. Income included \$2,290 from the Main Club for 2025 and \$45 for Fire Tower Challenge ("FTC") patches; expenses included postage and the premium for bicycle outings insurance; total assets are \$25,228. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Liz Rovers, seconded by Jeff Mans.

Kim gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She has been attending the monthly updates on the Main Club's IMIS system and Interim Executive Director Julia Goren's online office hours.

Trustee Mo Coutant reported that the Main Club has not yet taken action on the proposed chapter conservation committee actions policy. She is trying to get the Advisory Committee's ("AC") Conservation Committee to include Paul Dietershagen in its work. The AC is trying to get its committees to be more active and to get more people involved. A lengthy discussion of the ongoing problems with the Main Club's Outings Leader Guidelines ensued.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee, reported that all three nights of the recently completed festival sold out. 600 boxes of popcorn, 560 bottles of water, and 1,300 cookies were given away. In past years Jim Coutant baked all 1,300 cookies himself, but this year Gretchen Steen and Licia Mackey baked some of them. The Committee is trying wrap things up. The raffle raised \$2,221, all of which will go to the Summit Stewards program. Mo will send that to the Main Club soon.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown reported for the **Education Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. She said that she now may have 4 or 5 applicants for camperships.

Kim Brown reported for the **Newsletter Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. She said that she is looking into hiring someone to produce the newsletter until a new chair can be found. This would be paid for out of the existing newsletter budget.

Membership Chair Liz Bowers reported that there were 22 new members in December and January, but 77 memberships had expired. Total membership is 1,527. She is looking at how to follow up with the expired members. The Ex. Comm. discussed problems with the lack of sufficient notice from the Main Club to the soon-to-expire members and with trying to renew memberships online. Kim will bring these issues up with the Main Club at a meeting next week.

Kim Brown reported for the **Programs Committee**, in the absence of Chair Anne Paolano. She discussed the upcoming programs and said that Anne is working on a program for the 2025 Annual Meeting, and looking into holding it at Common Roots in South Glens Falls.

FTC Committee Member Kathi Noble reported for the Committee in the absence of Chair Tim Noble. She said that the Main Club staff has done some of things that they promised at a meeting last fall would be done for the FTC, but most of them have not been done. The Committee has planned a meeting with the staff to discuss this.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown reported for the **Publicity Committee**, in the absence of Chair Deb Balliet. She said that Deb has been doing a great job with the Chapter's social media pages, but that she will resign as committee chair, while continuing to do the social media work.

Conservation Chair Paul Dietershagen said that he and Thomas Khairallah are on the Graphite Range Advisory Board, which met recently. The Board is mostly focused on mountain biking, but he is trying to get it to focus on hiking also.

Kim Brown reported for the **Trails Committee**, in the absence of Co-chair Jim Schneider, and updated the Ex. Comm. on the status of the Buck Mountain trailhead stewards program.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter said that after last month's Ex. Comm. meeting with new Main Club President Mickey Orta, he wrote to him about some of the outings issues that had been discussed, but got no response. He has not received responses to his prior outreaches to the Main Club either.

Website Chair George Sammons discussed the problems with linking to the Chapter's outings via the Main Club's website.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the list of proposed **special donations** for approval. It is the same as last year's list – 16 organizations at \$75 each, \$1,200 total. The donations were unanimously approved on a motion by John Caffry, seconded by Kim Brown. Steve also presented the **2025 budget**, as approved by the Main Club, with some adjustments to match the 2024 results and to reformat it to match the funds to how the Chapter uses them. This was tabled so that Steve can better tie the changes to the Club-approved budget.

Kim Brown reported that Jim Schneider would like to start a book club for reading adventure books. Anyone who is interested should contact Jim. Kim said she will be away next month and **Laura Fiske** will chair the March Ex. Comm. meeting. **Liz Rovers** said that the Chapter is sharing a booth with the Albany Chapter soon at the **Adirondack Sports Expo** and she is looking for volunteers to staff it. **Jeff Mans** raised concerns about the Main Club's latest outings liability release form. Mo Coutant will bring this up with the AC and Jeff will report back.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Kathi Noble, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary