

**Minutes of the February 7, 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, Laura Fiske, Thomas Khairallah, Jessica Krause, Lisa Lehman, Steve Mackey, Kathi Noble, Tim Noble, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, Ray Ross, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, and Gretchen Steen. **Also present:** Chandra Geremick.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

The minutes of the January 3, 2024 meeting, as corrected, were approved unanimously on a motion by Mo Coutant, seconded by Steve Mackey.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the January Treasurer's Report. The only income was \$66 for Fire Tower Challenge ("FTC") patches. Expenses included \$434 for bicycle outings insurance and \$41 for FTC postage. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by John Caffry, seconded by Kathi Noble.

Kim gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She announced that she has appointed Lisa Lehman as the new Newsletter Chair. Outgoing chair Jen Ferriss will produce the next edition and Lisa will take over after that. Lisa introduced herself. She said that she used to work on the Chapter's newsletter over 20 years ago, and now works in communications.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee, reported that all 3 nights sold out. The raffle items were great and over \$2,000 was raised for the Summit Stewards program. Donations for the food and drinks were down from last year. She said that she met people from Pennsylvania and New York City who came to the area just to see the shows. She does not yet have the final numbers, but overall everything went well. She thanked the committee members for their work.

Conservation Co-chair Paul Dietershagen reported that Saratoga PLAN has purchased Snake Hill on Saratoga Lake. He said that March is the time to look for invasive hemlock woolly adelgids on trees and report any sightings on the available app [IMapInvasives].

Kim Brown reported for the **Education Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. She said that so far there are only 2 campers signed up for camperships, so she is looking for more.

FTC Chair Tim Noble said that completion numbers are slow this time of year. The Committee has not yet been able to meet with the Main Club staff about the implementation of the FTC 2.0 program.

Membership Chair Ray Ross said that he is planning for the Adirondack Sports Expo in March and is looking for volunteers. The number of Chapter members was flat from November to December, and the Chapter is still the largest in ADK.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter reported that he, Laura Fiske, Brian Coville, and Mo Coutant are working on clarifying the guidelines for outings leader training reimbursement for leaders who can not take the free courses offered by ADK. The issues include improving communications between ADK and the leaders, clarifying what courses chapters can provide reimbursement for, and getting the Main Club to offer free courses in the Glens Falls-Albany area.

Programs Chair Anne Paolano discussed the upcoming programs. The next 2 are about wilderness adventures with families. She is beginning to plan for the Annual Dinner, and needs to find a program. She will continue to look for venues to hold regular programs in the Glens Falls area. She has noted that some other chapters are no longer holding programs.

Publicity Committee member Aimee Rutledge reported that she is continuing to post Chapter news on both Facebook and Instagram.

Website Chair George Sammons discussed recent updates to the website. Thomas Khairallah discussed the status of the Main Club's updates to chapter websites, which are delayed.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown asked for a motion to approve a change to the **2024 budget**, to add \$200 to support the ADK Voices oral history program. This was approved unanimously on a motion by Mo Coutant, seconded by Steve Mackey. George said that there is a link to this on the website.

Kim presented the list of **2024 Special Donations**, which is the same as last year's – 16 groups at \$75 each. All of the groups support trails that the Chapter's members use. Paul suggested increasing Saratoga PLAN to \$100. John suggested increasing all of them to \$100 for 2025. No action was taken on these suggestions. The original list was approved unanimously on a motion by Laura Fiske, seconded by Kathi Noble.

Kim said that the Main Club's **budget guidelines for chapters** have been received. Steve Mackey said that he has filed the required 2023 report. Mo Coutant said that the Banff funds are separate from that, and Steve said he did not report them on that form. Laura Fiske agreed that these funds are separate from the Chapter's other funds.

Trustee Mo Coutant reported that the **Advisory Committee** met recently and nothing much was accomplished. The next meeting will be at Cascade.

Open Forum: Kim suggested purchasing a gift card for outgoing Newsletter Chair Jen Ferriss, but it was pointed out that this has usually only been done for former chapter chairs, not committee chairs. A thank you card will be sent instead.

Chapter member and **outings leader Chandra Geremick** discussed her ideas about how to get younger people involved in ADK. She is trying to organize events that could do this, and wants to help find a new Younger Members Group chair, as the position has been vacant for a while. A discussion of her ideas followed.

John Caffry asked about the status of going back to hybrid Ex. Comm. meetings. Kim said that we did not have a location for the in-person part. Members will continue to look for options.

Kim said that the next meeting is on March 6th, and that Adirondack Lobby Day in Albany is coming up – she offered to car pool to that event.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by John Caffry, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary