

**Minutes of the June 5, 2024 Meeting of the Executive
Committee of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter
of Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., held via ZOOM**

Present: John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Lisa Lehman, Steve Mackey, Wayne Richter, Ray Ross, Aimee Rutledge, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. **Also present:** Pat Desbiens.

First Vice-Chapter Chair Laura Fiske opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m., in the absence of Chair Kim Brown.

Nominating Committee Chair Pat Desbiens reported that she is still looking for nominees for Ex. Comm. member-at-large (MAL) and alternate trustee (on the Main Club Advisory Committee). Although Thomas Khairallah will not continue as a MAL, he will continue to assist George Sammons with the transition to the Club's new IMIS system. Most other officers and Ex. Comm. members have expressed willingness to continue in their positions. She will put out a request for volunteers in the newsletter. The slate needs to be complete by August.

Laura reported for **MAL Thomas Khairallah** in his absence. He said that there has been no response from the Main Club to the Chapter's questions about the **IMIS system**. Trustee Mo Coutant said that she will forward any updates that she receives about this.

The minutes of the June 5, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Ray Ross, seconded by Mo Coutant.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the May Treasurer's Report. The only income was \$99 in Fire Tower Challenge payments, and there were no expenses. Total assets are \$21,444. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Mo Coutant, seconded by John Caffry.

There was a discussion of the **Chapter's accounts**. Mo said that a large balance is always carried over in the Banff Mountain Film Festival account as seed money and insurance for future years. Jim Schneider said that the Fire Tower Challenge (FTC) funds are still up in the air because the transition to the online FTC 2.0 is still not complete, due to staff changes. Despite 6 years of work, it is still not ready. He suggested that the Chapter should consider keeping control of the FTC because the Main Club does not have the resources to handle it. Mo, as Trustee, will follow up on its status. She will also work with the FTC Committee to figure out the financial side.

Mo reported for **Program Chair Anne Paolano** in her absence. The September program will be on wildlife with Al Hicks, October will be the Annual Dinner, and November will be about photography with Dr. Daniel Way. Gretchen Steen said that the last program by Thomas Mowatt on bioregionalism was very good, and that he offered to do more programs.

Mo also reported for the **Education Committee**, for which the chair position is vacant. Jim Schneider presented a program on fire towers for kids at the Moreau Lake State Park

Conservation Day. This year the Park will be resurrecting its Naturefest, which the Chapter has tabled at in the past.

Membership Chair Ray Ross said that he had no report because the Main Club has not sent the rosters recently, despite his requests.

Newsletter Chair Lisa Lehman said that she is working on the July issue. The deadline for the next issue after that is August 1st. She can not include the lists of new and renewing members because the Main Club is not sending the rosters.

A general discussion of the numerous problems with the Main Club's management of the **membership database** ensued. Laura is concerned that newly joined Chapter members are not being contacted because of these problems.

Aimee Rutledge, the Social Media Coordinator for the Publicity Committee, for which the chair position is vacant, said that she continues to post information on the social media accounts. Lisa encouraged trip leaders to submit photos which could be used in the newsletter and also posted on the accounts.

Trails Co-Chair Jim Schneider discussed the upcoming Saratoga County trails committee meeting. The Buck Mountain trailhead stewards program is ready to go for this year. Steve Mackey said that work on the Prospect Mountain trail is going well.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee, reported that the 2025 festival will be held from January 31st to February 2nd. She will reserve those dates at the Wood Theatre. Adirondack Cycling Advocates has asked about tabling at the event. She has received a thank you note from the Main Club for the recent donation of \$2,500 from Banff funds.

Mo Coutant, Trustee, discussed the recent Trustees' meeting. **MAL Thomas Khairallah** attended in her place because she was not able to attend. She will forward the minutes of that meeting to the Ex. Comm. No Main Club staff was present. Problems with the IMIS system and the lack of communications from the Main Club to the chapters were discussed.

Laura said that the next meeting is on September 4th. John Caffry suggested that when the **2025 budget** is prepared for submission to the Main Club for approval, money for fees for venues for the Ex. Comm. meetings should be included, so that **in-person meetings** can resume. A discussion of this idea ensued: there was some support for this idea; money from the 2024 budget's administrative line could be used to do this; other chapters already do it.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Gretchen Steen, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary