

**Minutes of the November 6, 2024 Meeting of the Executive  
Committee of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter  
of Adirondack Mountain Club, Inc., held via ZOOM**

**Present:** Deb Balliet, Kim Brown, John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Brian Coville, Paul Dietershagen, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Thomas Khairallah, Jeff Mans, Kathi Noble, Tim Noble, Anne Paolano, Wayne Richter, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. **Also present:** Pat Desbiens.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** opened the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

**The minutes** of the October 2, 2024 meeting were discussed. Deb Balliet requested that her written report be added to the minutes. As amended, the minutes were approved unanimously, with one abstention, on a motion by Brian Coville, seconded by Mo Coutant.

Kim gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She reported that the **Annual Dinner** went well and thanked Anne Paolano for doing a great job. The venue and food were good. Lisa Lehman will be resigning as **Newsletter Chair** – she will prepare one more issue and will help the new chair after that.

**Trustee Mo Coutant** referred to the written report submitted by Kim. Mo is talking to potential alternate trustees and will attend the next Advisory Committee meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** reported for the **Education Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. She said that she is beginning outreach for 2025 campership applicants.

**Kim** reported for the **Membership Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. She said that she is now sending out the new member letters, and that there are 200 patches in stock.

**Nominating Committee Chair Pat Desbiens** reported on the election that was held at the **Annual Meeting** on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. There were 70 voting members present and 18 absentee ballots, constituting a quorum. The slate was unanimously approved, as follows: Chair – Kim Brown; First Vice-Chair – Laura Fiske; Second Vice-Chair – Jessica Krause; Treasurer – Steve Mackey; Secretary – John Caffry; Members-at-Large - Kathi Noble, Jeff Mans, and Brian Coville; and Trustee – Maureen Coutant.

**Programs Chair Anne Paolano** said that the Annual Dinner went well, and that photographer Nancie Battaglia was a great speaker. She has speakers lined up through May. In January there will be a joint program with Southern Adirondack Audubon at Crandall Library in Glens Falls. Thomas Khairallah will send out e-mail reminders in advance and Gretchen Steen will assist with hosting the programs.

**Fire Tower Challenge (“FTC”) Committee member Kathi Noble** reported that she and Chair Tim Noble met with the Main Club staff recently. They do not yet have full access to the online completer submissions, but there are about 30 of those so far. They are also still getting mailed-in submissions. They also discussed the FTC budget with the staff and are working on getting FTC funds transferred from the Main Club to the Chapter. They are working how to get the paper filers to also do the new parts of the FTC like Leave No Trace training, are planning to sell

FTC t-shirts again, and hope to make a presentation to the Main Club's Board of Directors about the "new" FTC.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** reported for the **Newsletter Committee**, in the absence of Chair Lisa Lehman. She said that the deadline for the next edition is December 1<sup>st</sup>, and she is looking for a new chair. There was a discussion of the Chapter possibly buying software for the new chair to use. No action was taken.

**Conservation Chair Paul Dietershagen** asked how the Chapter would go about getting involved in **local conservation issues**, since the Main Club no longer gives guidance to the chapters. John Caffry discussed the Main Club's policy – chapters can submit comments on projects to agencies so long as they do not conflict with Main Club's policy on the issue. John discussed past Chapter actions, how to coordinate with the Main Club, and how to get timely Chapter Ex. Comm. approval for actions. A discussion of how to make this work best ensued.

**Publicity Chair Deb Balliet** discussed recent statistics on the Chapter's social media pages and her recent postings. She is looking for outings photos and other content to post.

**Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee**, reported that she is working on publicity for the 2025 event; tickets go on sale in December.

**Outings Chair Wayne Richter** discussed his written annual report for 2023/2024. There was a major falloff in outings numbers due to Covid, and they did not recover after that due to the new outings leader certification requirements. The Albany Chapter is having the same problem, but the Main Club does not seem to care about the lack of outings. He is taking the classes to become a Level 3 leader – which is where the lack of leaders is the worst. Letters of appreciation and gift cards were sent to all leaders who led 6 or more outings during the year.

**Website Chair George Sammons** reported that he continues to update the website. Kim said that the Main Club is continuing to give out misleading information about the status of the transfer of the Chapter's website to the IMIS system – the full site has not been transferred, only the FTC is on IMIS.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** presented the **October Treasurer's Report** in the absence of Treasurer Steve Mackey. The report includes the income and expenses for the Annual Dinner. There were also expenses for patches for new members, the newsletter, and volunteer recognition. Total assets are \$21,061. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Kathi Noble, seconded by Brian Coville. Mo Coutant said that the deposit for the Banff Film Festival has now been paid to the Wood Theater.

Kim said that the **in-person meeting** at Common Roots has been moved from March to April 2025. The December 4<sup>th</sup> potluck dinner will be held at the Saratoga Springs library at 6:00.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Jeff Mans, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary