

**Minutes of the December 4, 2024 Meeting of the Executive  
Committee of the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter of Adirondack  
Mountain Club, Inc., held at the Saratoga Springs Public Library**

**Present:** Kim Brown, John Caffry, Maureen Coutant, Brian Coville, Paul Dietershagen, Tom Ellis, Laura Fiske, Jessica Krause, Jeff Mans, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, and Gretchen Steen.  
**Also present:** Pat Desbiens and Liz Rovers.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** opened the meeting at 6:59 p.m., following a potluck dinner.

**The minutes** of the November 6, 2024 meeting, as revised, were approved unanimously on a motion by Wayne Richter, seconded by Kathi Noble.

Treasurer Steve Mackey was absent. His **November financial report was presented Chapter Chair Kim Brown**. Income was \$63 and expenses were \$342. Total assets are \$20,782. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Laura Fiske, seconded by Brian Coville.

Kim gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. The Main Club has filled some key staff vacancies. The Board has approved the 2025 budget. Finances are claimed to be stable, and there will be no dues increases.

**Trustee Mo Coutant** discussed the recent **Advisory Council** meeting. The Main Club plans to hire a new E.D. by January. The staff is still attempting to fix the IMIS system, and took input from the Council on the problems. Mo asked for input on the upcoming vote by the Council on whether or not the Main Club Board should appoint Sarah Reynolds, a staff attorney (Deputy Counsel) at the Adirondack Park Agency, to the Board. John Caffry moved to ask Mo to vote against this, due to the obvious conflict of interest. Laura Fiske seconded. After some discussion, the motion was approved unanimously, with one abstention.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** reported for the **Education Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. She said that she is collecting applications for 2025 camperships.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** reported for the **Membership Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. She said that there were 25 new members in the last month, and membership is flat over the last year.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** reported for the **Programs Committee**, in the absence of Chair Anne Paolano, and discussed the upcoming programs.

**Fire Tower Challenge Committee member Kathi Noble** reported for the Committee. The number of completer letters being received is slowing down due to the onset of winter. She plans to follow up with the Main Club regarding problems with FTC 2.0. Access to three towers is temporarily closed due to hunting season and access to the Gore Mountain tower is closed for the winter due to the planned opening of the ski area.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** reported for the **Newsletter Committee**, in the absence of Chair Lisa Lehman. She said that the December issue will be out soon, and that Lisa will help with the February issue before she resigns. Kim is looking for a new chair.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** reported for the **Publicity Committee**, in the absence of Chair Deb Balliet. Deb's written report states that she is increasing the frequency of postings on Facebook and Instagram. She thanked outings leaders and others for submitting content. She hopes to recruit two new members for the committee.

**Conservation Chair Paul Dietershagen** reported that he attended the Saratoga County trails committee meeting, which mostly focused on bike trails.

**Trails Committee Co-chair Tom Ellis** said that he will set the date for the Tongue Mountain trail work soon. This will allow the Chapter to have sign-up sheets at the Banff Mountain Film Festival and other events.

**Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee**, reported that tickets will go on sale soon.

**Outings Chair Wayne Richter** reported that he can now finally look up on the IMIS system whether leaders are certified, but that there are still problems with the system and with the training programs offered by the Main Club. The Chapter still has very few outings and very few leaders.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** reported for the **Website Committee**, in the absence of Chair George Sammons. She said that she and George had participated in a call with the Main Club staff about the problems with the IMIS system.

**Chapter Chair Kim Brown** reported on the **Main Club's proposed guidelines for chapter conservation committees**. John Caffry discussed the Club's past practices and policies, based on his more than 35 years of experience with the ADK conservation program and the Chapter's role in local conservation issues, including protecting the Big Cedar Swamp since the 1980s. Conservation Chair Paul Dietershagen said that he understands the Club's need to be careful about what chapters do, but that the proposed process is unworkable – there are too many steps in the approval process, and most issues have time limits for comments. Kim said that the Advisory Committee is supposed to take this up at its meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>. After further discussion, the E.C. agreed to discuss this further at its January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Kim said that the **next E.C. meeting** will be held on January 8<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Kathi Noble, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary