

**Minutes of the January 8, 2025 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, Jessica Krause, Steve Mackey, Jeff Mans, Kathi Noble, Wayne Richter, Liz Rovers, George Sammons, Jim Schneider, and Gretchen Steen. **Also present:** ADK President Mickey Orta, Jim Galarneau.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

The minutes of the December 4, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Laura Fiske, seconded by Gretchen Steen.

Kim introduced new **ADK President Mickey Orta**. He said that he has been on the Board for 3 years; he lives in Queensbury and works at a bank in Glens Falls; he skis, hikes, etc.; he recently joined the Glens Falls-Saratoga Chapter. Several issues were discussed:

- Mr. Orta said that former Executive Director Michael Barrett had resigned quite abruptly last year; some of what he did was good, some was not, and he moved on. There is a search committee and a search firm has been hired. The Club is now on the second round of interviews, with candidates from all over the country. They hope to hire someone by February, who has experience managing a similar organization and has advocacy experience.
- Mr. Orta said that membership, renewals, and contributions are down; ADK needs to find a way to recruit younger members. Kim Brown suggested trying to reach out to members who have left because of the recent problems and changes in the Club.
- Mr. Orta discussed his interest in looking at the Outings Leader Guidance (“OLG”) again, in a collaborative way. He agreed that the relationship between the Board of Directors and the chapters has become contentious and needs to be looked at.
- John Caffry said that the proposed policy on chapter conservation activities was unworkable and would kill those committees; he explained the history of how the Club had managed this in the past. Mr. Orta said that this issue will be looked into.
- John also questioned appointing an APA staff attorney to the Club’s Board due to the conflict of interest that would be created. Mr. Orta said that this had been looked into and a second opinion had been obtained that okayed it.
- Jim Schneider discussed the need for improved collaboration between the Club and the chapters. Mr. Orta agreed.
- Wayne Richter discussed how the outings culture in the Chapter has declined and that the Club does not seem to care. This could be affecting membership and donations, due to the loss of outings leaders that resulted from: (1) Covid, and (2) the OLGs discouraging leaders from coming back after that. Mr. Orta said that the Club would be looking at this; the rollout of the OLGs was poorly done. Mo Coutant said that retention of members is higher for chapter members than members-at-large, so outings benefit ADK, and the OLGs are killing them.
- Mr. Orta said that we will make adjustments and make ADK bigger and better again. He departed the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Treasurer Steve Mackey presented the December Treasurer’s Report. There was no income, and expenses were \$688 for the newsletter and to reimburse an outings leader for a training course. For 2024, expenses were \$11,787 and income was \$12,251; total year-end assets were \$20,843. The report was approved unanimously on a motion by Laura Fiske, seconded by Wayne Richter.

Kim gave the **Chapter Chair's Report**. She said that she had appointed **Liz Rovers as Membership Chair** and asked for a vote to elect Liz as **Alternate Trustee**. This approved unanimously on a motion by Mo Coutant, seconded by Kathi Noble.

Mo Coutant, Chair of the Ad Hoc Banff Mountain Film Festival Special Committee, reported that all of the tickets for all 3 nights had sold out quickly. She will resell tickets that people return because they can't use them and discussed how to get on the list for that. She is still collecting raffle prizes.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown reported for the **Education Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. She said that she only has one applicant for a campership so far, but has some new contacts to reach out to.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown reported for the **Newsletter Committee**, due to the vacancy in the chair position. She said that former chair Lisa Lehman is helping out with the next edition.

Fire Tower Challenge Committee member and Correspondent Kathi Noble reported for the absent Chair, Tim Noble. She said that in 2024 there were 150 adult completers, plus 17 winter completers and 6 kids. Since the founding of the FTC in 2001 there have been about 1,480 adult completers, plus 129 winter completers and 67 kids, for a total of about 1,676. Of the 173 completers in 2024, 46 submitted their information online.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown reported for the **Publicity Committee**, because Chair Deb Balliet had to leave the meeting early. She said that Deb is continuing to promote outings and programs on the Chapter's social media accounts. Ex. Comm. members complimented Deb on the work that she is doing.

Conservation Committee Chair Paul Dietershagen discussed the problems with the Main Club's proposed policy for the approval of chapter conservation advocacy actions. One option may be to inform members about the issues without advocating for a position.

Trails Committee Co-Chair Tom Ellis said that the annual Tongue Mountain trail work will be done on April 26th.

Website Committee Chair George Sammons discussed options for software for the next Newsletter Committee chair, and also the ongoing problems with the interactions between the Main Club and the Chapter's e-mail systems.

Outings Chair Wayne Richter reported on the ongoing problems with the Main Club's IMIS system and interaction with the Outings Leader Guidelines. He plans to renew the Chapter's bicycle outing insurance policy, based on the continuing interest of the leaders in these trips.

Chapter Chair Kim Brown reported on the recent online meeting of the **Main Club Advisory Committee** with Interim Executive Director Julia Goren.

On a motion by Tom Ellis, seconded by Steve Mackey, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, John Caffry, Secretary