

**Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter
Executive Committee Meeting March 26, 2009
Minutes Developed by John Barron**

Meeting was held at Clarkson Center for Advanced Materials Processing (CAMP) room 149, beginning at 7 PM.

Executive Committee Members Present: Tom Ortmeyer; Rose Rivezzi; David Trithart; John Barron; Ellie Menz; Hollis Easter

Appointed Officers Present: Betty Peckham

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
2. Announcements
3. Officer Reports

Minutes and Agenda

It was moved by Hollis Easter, seconded by Ellie Menz, to approve the minutes of the January meeting. So carried.

The agenda was approved.

Officer Reports

Treasurer (Ellie Menz)

Ellie circulated a financial statement – attached.

Director (David Trithart)

David reported the highlights of the March 14 meeting of the board, which he attended.

All Chapters are now submitting usable financial statements to the Club.

The Club is in the first year of planned deficit. It had been decided to invest in new staff, improvements to Adirondac, and other measures, running a deficit in favor of improving the Club and attracting more members. The strategy shows signs of paying off. Membership has dropped slightly, but less so than in other large outdoor clubs. Investments held by the Club are down, but under the present market conditions it could have been much worse. There is strong cash flow, and no need to use lines of credit. The properties, Heart Lake and JBL, are doing well; but caution is the theme as it may not last. Financial statements for the most recent period are preliminary; and furthermore they require care in interpretation because a financial reporting change during the period makes them not directly comparable to the previous period; that said, it

looks as if the actual deficit for the current period will be much less than the anticipated deficit that was planned.

There was discussion of Club-sponsored work weekends. A consensus emerged that they were enjoyable and that they feature great food.

National Trails Day will occur at Cranberry Lake on June 6.

ADK will offer "No Trace" training.

Vice Chair, Conservation (Tom Ortmeyer on behalf of Peter O'Shea)

The Bigger, Better Bottle Bill is still being promoted/encouraged.

There is friction with Gov Paterson, who may want to interfere with the Environmental Protection Fund. It is proposed to use unclaimed bottle deposits instead of property taxes to finance EPF contributions. Also, it is proposed to cap state municipal property taxes.

The issue of float planes on Lows Lake continues to percolate.

Peter wrote a more detailed statement on the issues for the spring issue of the North Wind, shortly before this meeting; it appears in the North Wind.

Note since the meeting – several issues have been favorably resolved (Reference ADK Conservation Update from Paul Ertelt, dated Fri 4/3/2009 5:21 PM).

Vice Chair, Education (Rose Rivezzi)

The Outdoors/Indoors series went very well and was very successful. Rose is thinking ahead to next year's series.

Two campers will be sponsored to Camp Colby. There is one volunteer lined up for High School Volunteer Trails, and Rose is hoping for a second.

Secretary (John Barron)

Nil

Publicity (John Barron)

The photo contest will take place. It runs from 1 May to 31 October. Betsy Tisdale has offered to be judge.

Vice Chair, Outings (Hollis Easter)

Gloria Daly and Lyle Montgomery completed the Winter 46 this year. John Barron will contact them and arrange publicity coverage.

There was discussion about adding events to the outing schedule between issues of the North Wind. A consensus was reached that Vice Chair, Outings is authorized to add events. A best effort should be made to publicize the event (the Chapter web site and E-Letter as a minimum), and executive committee members should be informed.

Hollis is trying to find an acceptable lead time between the quarterly call for outings and the publication deadline of the North Wind. Many outing leaders don't like a long lead time, but the editors need an adequate lead time.

Hollis hopes to find ways to encourage leaders to hold first aid qualifications. The ADK and the 46ers help defray the cost of first aid training.

There was discussion of the scope of the outing program. Rock climbing is considered too risky and out of scope; no other guidelines were set at this meeting.

There was discussion of special interest groups. Hollis hopes to establish some, including one for parents and children. Rose Rivezzi is hoping to assemble a kids' series.

Announcements

Dick Mooers is planning to run a backpacking course as a non-credit extension course for SUNY Potsdam.

There has been damage from full-sized vehicles at Postwood Park. The Park authorities plan to install large rocks to prevent this in future. Rob Badger plans to adopt Postwood as a Chapter trail maintenance activity.

Duncan and Lois Cutter plan to step down as hospitality coordinators; the Chapter is searching for replacement(s).

Additional Item – Request from ADK to Sponsor the Band at National Trails Day

ADK Headquarters sent a letter to the Chapter asking if it would sponsor the band at National Trails Day as it has in the past. The cost would be \$500. Following discussion it was moved by Rose Rivezzi, seconded by Hollis Easter, and carried unanimously, to sponsor a trail during National Trails Day instead, and a contribution of an equivalent \$500 to the ADK for this purpose was authorized.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be May 28. Striking a nominating committee will be on the agenda.