

**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB – LAURENTIAN CHAPTER  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 1, 2016**

Officers Attending: Tom Ortmeyer, John Omohundro, Mary Jane Watson, Tom Wheeler, Marianne Hebert, Jeanna Matthews, Randy Saumier (appointed Interim Vice Chair, Membership during this meeting)

Incoming Officers Attending: Marie Fernandez de Alaiza (Treasurer), Randy Saumier (Vice Chair, Membership), David Katz (Vice Chair, Conservation)

Appointed Positions Attending: John Barron, David Katz (as Webmaster)

Guests: Andrea (Marie's granddaughter)

Karynn von Cramon had work commitments and couldn't attend this meeting so John Barron took notes.

Announcements (Tom Wheeler)

Tom Wheeler is receiving copies of the newsletters of every chapter. He offered them to whoever might be interested as a source of information and ideas.

Indian River Lakes Conservancy - based in Redwood, Jefferson County, NY.

The historic Wanakena footbridge, to which the chapter contributed some funds, has been reconstructed and is now open.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the September 22 meeting was deferred until the next meeting.

It was moved by Mary Jane Watson, seconded by John Omohundro, to approve the minutes of the annual meeting and pot luck of November 13, 2016. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer (Mary Jane Watson)

About \$1,500 in checking account.

Mark Simon submitted expense claims of \$873.61 for the shed. MJ has paid it and it is posted. John Omohundro noted that we will recover 100% of this amount from RRAC.

In October there was an E-Mail vote to approve funding advances to pay expenses concerning the shed. It passed with one abstention.

MJ thinks we are up to date with deposit of monthly dues.

Tom Ortmeyer, who still has signing authority on the accounts, has spoken with Seacomm and advised them we are going to be changing the people with signing authority.

Tom Wheeler read two motions concerned with changing the signing authority on the accounts. It was moved by John Omohundro, seconded by Tom Ortmeyer, to approve those motions. In favor all. Opposed nil. Carried.

Cash Status - Two or three months of dues payments are owed to the chapter by ADK Headquarters.

#### Vice Chair, Membership - Acting (Tom Wheeler)

Tom Wheeler proposed to appoint Randy Saumier, who has been elected as Vice Chair, Membership starting January 1, to be acting in that position immediately. It was moved by John Omohundro, seconded by Mary Jane Watson, to make such an appointment. Carried unanimously.

#### Director (Tom Ortmeyer)

A board meeting was held this past weekend.

Revenues are good. The Club is in good shape financially.

\$4.3M in revenue, up 10%. Sources, in decreasing order of importance, are: lodging, dues, donations, contract work, merchandise, publications, parking.

\$4.27M in expenses. Expenses were payroll and operating expenses.

There was a small surplus. A significant increase in dues is anticipated.

The "Grow ADK Fund" puts a time buffer between donations and expenditures.

\$50K is being spent for Education Workshop yurts at Heart Lake. \$60K being spent on marketing. Web site improvements are part of this.

There is a matching grant from the State for renovations. That account will run over budget by intent. The HPIC is closed and under renovation. We are adding camp sites and improving handicapped access. We are beautifying the parking lot (!)

Allen Via of the Publications Committee reported that the Western Guidebook has just gone to the indexer, so it won't be coming out in 2016. The Laurentian Chapter cycling guide is slated for 1Q 2017.

#### Conservation (John Omohundro outgoing, David Katz incoming)

A comment letter on the Grass River Wild Forest Unit Management Plan is almost ready to send. The Main Club has finalized a position on roads near Tooley Pond Road.

John and David are developing a draft letter concerning the classification of lands surrounding Boreas Ponds, and will circulate it for input.

David Katz and Marianne attended the Canton public meeting about the Boreas Ponds classification. David estimates the crowd was about evenly split between wilderness supporters and motorized use supporters.

There was discussion of what level of wilderness to support at Boreas. David K favors tightly controlled Wild Forest, to allow handicapped access to the ponds, but there is ongoing discussion.

#### Outings (Marianne Hebert)

The second call for outings for the Winter season is out.

Felicia Neahr is planning three Saranac 6 outings plus a snowshoe trip (jointly with Black River Chapter) on the Red Sandstone Trail on Martin Luther King Day.

A lot of Club-level events will be listed in the Winter.

Work is needed on interpreting the results of the survey. John O may help.

#### Social Media (Marianne Hebert)

126 Facebook friends.

#### Education (Jeanna Matthews)

Three Outdoors/Indoors talks are scheduled (posted on the web site). The Civic Center is booked as a venue.

Camp Colby and High School Volunteer Trails: Last year we sent invitations to Guidance Counsellors around the region. Three schools replied. One student was selected from each of two schools. We are considering inviting a student(s) who participated to one of the pot lucks to tell us about the experience.

This year one of the candidates left the region suddenly under difficult circumstances and may not have gone to camp. The other guidance counsellor never replied. Jeanna is wondering if there may be a better approach.

Scouts is a possible approach: Randy may have a specific lead. We could put an article in the newspapers inviting applications: Tom Wheeler thinks the Audubon Society used this approach with success. The 46ers may have done something of this kind too.

There was some brainstorming about other constructive ways to support youth activity in the outdoors. Marianne suggested SUNY Potsdam Wilderness Education Lead 2 expedition fund raising. John O feels ADK HS Volunteer Trails is an even better cause than DEC Camp Colby. It was suggested that Lucas (John O's Eagle Scout protégé) might know of a candidate or two.

Tom Wheeler recommended pre-approving an allotment for Camp Colby in advance of developing this year's budget, in order to meet the DEC application deadline. It was moved by Marianne Hebert, seconded by Mary Jane Watson, so pre-approve \$750 for DEC Canp sponsorships. Approved unanimously.

#### Membership (Randy Saumier)

There was discussion of the activities this role entails, and how it could evolve. The historic roles of sending letters of welcome to new members and "sorry to see you to" to departing members are understood. It is considered that any kind of activity that could inspire interest and participation would be a very positive contribution. John O suggested that troubleshooting membership status problems at Lake George would be helpful.

#### Web Site (David Katz)

David has looked over other chapters' web sites for ideas. One was listing Aspiring 46ers in our chapter, to help those on that quest make contact with each other.

#### Educational Affiliate Program (John Barron)

Ten new EAP members joined in September. Nine of these hold Lead 1 and are eligible to become leaders by completing the EAP Leadership Course. One of them is simply a student member, not planning to lead. There are a total of 18 EAP members.

There are approximately 31 student members in the chapter including all those who joined outside the EAP. This is the highest number of student members for any single chapter.

Six people completed the EAP Leadership Course in November. We are grateful to Nick Grippe, an experienced EAP leader, for becoming a student presenter and helping with the course. Four leaders are returning for this academic year, so we now have ten fully accredited leaders. All others are eligible to be co-leaders or assistant leaders.

Eight EAP outings are planned for the Winter-Spring term, all student-led.

#### New Business

### Friends of Mount Arab

Tim Dominy is willing to represent the Chapter on the board of the Friends of Mount Arab. It was noted that we recommend a delegate and the Friends appoint. There was a consensus to recommend Tim.

### Quick Books

Marie will need a license for Quick Books. There's money in the budget for this now, and there was a consensus to have Marie purchase a license and be reimbursed.

### Donations

It was moved by Marianne Hebert, seconded by Tom Ortmeier, to donate \$100 to the Friends of Higley Flow. Carried unanimously.

\$1000 was tentatively budgeted as a donation to the ADK central club. The chapter's financial results make that look a bit of a stretch. It was moved by John Omohundro, seconded by Marianne Hebert, to donate \$500 to the ADK General Fund. Tom Ortmeier proposed an amendment to include an additional \$275 appropriation to ADK Trails, for a total donation of \$775 to the ADK. The amendment and the donation were approved by consensus.

### Closing Remarks

Tom Wheeler extended thanks and farewell to Mary Jane and John O who are leaving the executive committee.

Mary Jane noted she has records to give to her successor.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday February 9 at Marianne Hebert's residence, 9 Spring Street, Potsdam.