

**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB – LAURENTIAN CHAPTER
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

Officers Attending: Tom Wheeler (Chair); Tom Ortmeyer (Director); David Katz (Conservation); Marianne Hebert (Outings); Marie Fernandez de Alaiza (Treasurer); John Barron (Secretary and Alternate Director)

Appointive Positions Attending: John Barron (as Publicity and EAP), Marianne Hebert (as Social Media); David Katz (as Webmaster)

Regrets: Jeanna Matthews (Education); Randy Saumier (Membership)

Meeting location was Marianne Hebert's residence, 9 Spring St., Potsdam.

Announcements (Tom Wheeler)

John Omohundro is phasing out RRAC in favor of his role at the cemetery. John O and Blair Madore have been organizing a transition to Blair, who now has a similar role on the St. Regis River Advisory Council. Blair will need a successor on the St. Regis. Glen Clark may be a good possibility.

Tom received a query from the Cornwall Outdoor Club about insurance for outings. No progress has been made yet.

Minutes (John Barron)

Moved by Tom Ortmeyer, seconded by Marie, to accept the minutes of the September 26 meeting. In favor all. Opposed nil. Carried.

Treasurer (Marie Fernandez de Alaiza)

Marie circulated the financial status report.

Two checks have been received from the Club for dues, and that is all the revenue.

The Club has requested that chapters send in financial reports. Tom Ortmeyer advises to send in whatever report format is conveniently available and not worry about it.

Apparently this requirement is driven by a concern that chapters may donate money to organizations that lobby, which is not true in our case.

Outings (Marianne Hebert)

15 outings on the Fall schedule, two of which are all-Club outings. So far, all outings have gone ahead.

November 23 will be the date of call for outings for the Winter season.

A venue should be set for the New Year's pot luck.

Social Media (Marianne Hebert)

153 Facebook friends.

Director (Tom Ortmeyer)

The Club is working on closing the financial gap. A deficit is expected this year, partly because of HPIC renovations but there's more.

Merchandise sales up.

Parking is down, partly due to construction and partly due to policies of the Town of North Elba. Only revenue, which is down, is of concern. There is no longer a problem of overcrowding in the lots.

20% shortfall in revenue. 20% overage in expenses.

Net income 41% below forecast.

Cash flow may be worse (no details) due to construction.

Development Director Catherine Forbes has resigned. The first-choice successor declined the position, possibly for family reasons. The second-choice candidate has accepted.

There was a brief discussion of Chapter Notes.

Preliminary budget figures look realistic.

There is general agreement that Wes Lampman is working out well.

Thought is going on about what kind of person should succeed Neil Woodworth when he decides to retire. A lawyer? A lobbyist/advocate? A star fund raiser?

The Jamieson Fund now stands at about \$50,000. Income from the Fund stays in the Fund. Its objective is to maintain water access. Expenditures have to be approved by the Finance, Conservation, and Trails Committees. The Laurentian Chapter is always consulted. Some thought may be beginning to loosen the restrictions on expenditures from the Jamieson Fund.

There might be an update in the works of "The Forest Preserve: A Handbook for Conservationists" by Eleanor Brown. It is published by ADK Publications.

Conservation (David Katz)

Comments on an update to the Carry Falls Reservoir Unit Management Plan (UMP) are due next week.

The DEC is proposing a new road that should improve recreational access. There is concern that it will benefit hunting clubs and no one else. There is concern about enforcement. David plans to draft comments, circulate for comments, and have Tom Wheeler sign on behalf of the chapter. David may also send in his own personal reply.

Educational Affiliate Program (John Barron)

14 EAP members for 2017-2018

4 were qualified as leaders coming into this school year

10 signed up for leadership clinic on November 11. Experienced student leader Abbey Chimileski will assist John and Marianne in giving the course. Lauren Jackson-Beck will also take part to observe, assist, and help stage scenarios

Indications are all scheduled outdoor trips have gone ahead with good turnouts from the broader community at SUNY Potsdam

There was a huge turnout for Mark Simon's trail maintenance weekend, which was a joint event of the EAP and the regular program.

One student, Mari Robinson, took part in ADK College Weekend at the Loj, and recommends strong support for it next year. Her report follows here:

It was a good experience, the staff understood the awkwardness of being with a bunch of strangers for a weekend and they tried their best to alleviate that by having everyone play icebreakers which was successful in that I knew a couple of things about everyone who also went on the guided hike to Mt. Colden. The guided hike itself was enjoyable, the guide understood that the mountain was steep and he knew when was the best time to take breaks as he was a 6 time 46er so he knew the high peaks very well. Definitely advertise the opportunity more like maybe remind everyone who attended that meeting before all the venture outdoors/ EAP trips began with an email about it. College students really enjoy free things, so emphasize that the entire trip is free and that transportation can be provided if needed. The trip definitely would have been more enjoyable if there was more representation for our school.

We think additional support for sponsoring students to attend College Weekend may be a good investment, under the Education budget.

Membership (Randy Saumier)

The following sent as a message, just before the meeting as Randy couldn't attend:

I would like to report that I contacted ADK and had a special membership report run based upon zip codes that I provided. The report identified those ADK members within my selected zip codes that were not members of a Chapter. I crafted a short e-mail, with input from John Barron, and sent it out to approximately 60 members asking them to join them Laurentian Chapter. While I didn't expect to hear from anyone in return, as I assumed that if I did inspire them to join us, I did hear from three individuals, one from Ottawa, indicating that they did contact ADK and joined our Chapter. I still have another 30 members to contact.

Will be interested to see how this changes our membership.

Also I contacted ADK and suggested that they let our membership know that if they are Amazon Prime members they can join, at no cost, Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile let's one select a charitable organization, and I suggest the Adirondack Mountain Club, that will receive 0.5% of your eligible purchases. Great program and doesn't impact your purchase cost but can benefit ADK.

Education (Tom Wheeler on behalf of Jeanna)

It is acknowledged that Camp Colby and High School Volunteer Trails may not be the best use of chapter funds for educational purposes, especially if candidates sign up and then don't go. Furthermore finding candidates has been a heavy burden on Vice Chair, Education. Other ideas for furthering the Education mandate are welcome.

New Business

Photo Contest (Tom Ortmeyer)

The results are now known. Marie will write checks to the winners when their identities become associated with the contestant numbers.

Raquette River Advisory Council (RRAC)

It was moved by Marianne Hebert, seconded by David Katz, to appoint Blair Madore as our representative on RRAC. In favor all. Opposed nil. Carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday December 14, at Tom Wheeler's residence, 585 Pink Schoolhouse Road, Canton.