

Minutes for ADK Laurentian Chapter Meeting July 7, 2021

Attendance: David Katz, Tom Ortmeyer, Holly Woodworth, Marianne Hebert, Andy Rawdon, and Blair Madore.

1. Without quorum, we did approve minutes or take any actions that require a vote.
2. Tom Ortmeyer is now our representative to the new ADK advisory council. Each chapter gets a representative. Tom is serving on the Outings and Meetings committee. Next council meeting will be at the end of July. Tom's Outings Committee has been charged with "how do we train outing leaders?" John Barron expressed some concern about how instituting new rules might alienate existing leaders. Marianne discussed how the existing leading course we have helped (or didn't help) people become practicing leaders. Blair made the point that training can help people feel confident to be leaders.

We discussed how we do not really "qualify" leaders but we do keep an eye on abilities and planned events to ensure they are capable.

We discussed the balance between making requirements that might scare away potential leaders versus the need to have some requirements and training that will help leaders be confident in their abilities.

We agreed that Blair will make a first draft of what we want our leaders to know before becoming a leader. Everyone else will use this for discussion and editing to hopefully lead to a consensus.

Marianne, with help from Holly and Blair will potentially offer a leader training in October.

2. We discussed the new insurance policy for ADK and that bicycle outings are no longer covered. David will write to ADK about our concerns.
3. Blair continues to be the chapter representative on the Racquette River Advisory Council (RRAC). Ron Woodin has left ADK and thus is no longer our representative on the West Branch of the St. Regis River Advisory Council (WBSRRAC). Blair filled in for him this spring and Chair David Katz appointed Blair to be our representative going forward on the WBSRRAC.

Blair remarked that the RRAC has a large sum of money in its fund and does not receive a lot of proposals for funding. He is trying to spread word about this to local colleges and organizations that might engage in projects, that fit the mandate of the RRAC.

There will soon be a new advisory council for the Oswegatchie River. It is not clear whether we or Black River Chapter should have a seat on this council, or maybe both. David will contact Black River about this and Blair will contact DEC to clarify whether there is one seat or two.

4. David Katz created a number of online forms we can use to take registration for both the Red Sandstone Trail and the Stone Valley Trails. Blair is creating posters with QR codes that will be posted at trail entrances. The QR codes link to these forms so hikers can register hands free.

5. John Barron suggested we allocate funds for up to two adult memberships per year for young people who have graduated in the last five years and willing to take an active role in the chapter. Marianne discussed how the EAP program is on hold, so it may be hard to find the right people for this. We discussed how other local people who are related to the club would also be good targets. David suggested we need not limit this to two people, maybe 10. Marianne offered to start a list of what they could do to “earn” this opportunity.

5. Nominating Committee submitted a report in writing:

We will be nominating Marianne Hebert for Chair; Marianne has accepted.

We will be nominating David Katz for Secretary. David has accepted.

We are actively contacting possible candidates for Vice Chair, Education. No result yet.

If Marianne is elected Chair she will have to step down as Vice Chair, Membership. We're pleased to recommend Mary MacKinnon as an appointed successor to serve out the remainder of Marianne's term. Mary has accepted.

We would like very much to hear from anyone who might be interested in Vice Chair, Education, or who knows someone who might be. Contact any of us on the Nominating Committee.

John Barron <johnbarron@sympatico.ca>

David Trithart <dtrithar@twcny.rr.com>

Mary Mackinnon <geordiemary@gmail.com>

Blair agreed to be nominated for Education Vice Chair, at least for one year. We discussed what the education chair is required to do and whether they should recapture the Outdoors-Indoors program. David would like the Education Vice Chair to work more on public education, training, and teen trails program.

6. Holly reports that the Board of Directors has put forth a slate of candidates for officers. Discussed redesign of the hiker parking lot at the HPIC. The executive also want to build a large education building in that area. Also considering selling the Lake George Office – while many employees will continue working from home with a few employees working together in a rented office. Our new Bylaws were sent to NYCON to review and it has come back with some suggestion for revisions. Finances are in order – partly because of PPP grant. We also discussed recent developments with the Conservation Committee.

7. Next meeting September 8th at the home of Marianne Hebert at 6pm.

Blair