

Adk Laurentian Chapter Executive Committee  
Minutes, Dec 7, 2023 via Zoom

Called to order 6:06 pm

Attending: Marianne Hebert, Ellie Menz, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Jeff Miller, Brenda Curley, Holly Woodworth, Tom vande Water, Tom Ortmeyer, Blair Madore, David Katz

Approval of Sept 27 minutes – motion by Ellie, seconded by Tom VDW, passed unanimously

### **Appointments**

Motion to appoint Jeff Miller to be Outdoors-Indoors Coordinator made by Tom Ortmeyer, seconded by Holly, passed unanimously.

Kathleen Fitzgerald was appointed as Vice Chair, Membership by email vote on 11/8/2023.

### **Announcements**

Election of officers: 39 electronic ballots were received, unanimously electing Tom Wheeler (new chapter Chair), Brenda Curley (new Vice-Chair Education), Kathleen Fitzgerald (new VC Membership), and David Katz (second-term Secretary).

Letter of support for Lehman Park Accessible Restroom (below) sent last week.

Outings deadline: Dec. 9

Newsletter deadline: Dec 14.

**Outdoors-Indoors** – 4 are in the works. Three will be live + zoom. Eric McCluskey will do zoom-only since he is not in the North Country. David will put a blurb at the top of each month's newsletter bringing each month's event to people's attention.

**Stone Valley Interpretive Signs** – signs are done and have been sent to printer. Signs will be printed on thin plastic to be mounted on wood posts. Post holes will be dug in spring. Tom O volunteered his post-hole digger. Marianne suggests a ceremony of some sort when they are installed. Pdfs of signs could be put on the website. Could put both the 2006 signs and the 2023 signs on the website for historical context.

**Poetry** – Neal Burdick has volunteered to coordinate poetry. Marianne will give Neal the go-ahead. Jeff will talk with Neal about a poetry Outdoors-Indoors event in April.

### **Membership**

Approximately 20 chapter members have not provided Adk (or the chapter) with email addresses. Because most of our contact with chapter members is by email, we have almost no contact with no-email members. Marianne and Kathleen will discuss how best to remedy this.

The club's membership reports no longer include clear indication of lapsed members and new members. This is a problem. Discussion about how to make this more user-friendly – hopefully the club's new software will make that easier.

**Outings ratings** – since there is still some unclarity about the club's new outings ratings and leader ratings, we will continue to use the ratings on the outings page of the chapter website. We will inform outings leaders before the Spring North Wind that they should use the new ratings starting in spring. Should also note in spring North Wind that our leaders have no-trace and sexual harassment certification. (7 leaders have sent their certification to Holly so far.)

Advisory Council will be voting this week to send changes to leader certification requirements to the Board for approval. It is viewed as a work in progress, so future changes are likely.

**Financials** – still have \$6400 in the bank. We spent money on a few unbudgeted items (postage, webhosting), and spent less than budgeted on a few items (summer annual gathering).

Depending on the order in which money goes out and comes in, we may run into a cash crunch late in 2024 that may require Ellie to talk to the club's financial person.

Mark Simon should submit invoices to the chapter and the chapter submit them to Brookfield. Same for Blair. Same for the Stone Valley signs. It is important to run expenses through the chapter's budget to make sure expenses are properly accounted and paid for and to document the chapter's activities. Marianne will send invoices to Dick MacDonald (DEC) for approval, to Ellie to be paid, and to Brookfield for reimbursement; Brookfield will send checks to Ellie. Marianne will email Mark to inquire whether he has any invoices that need to be paid (i.e. trail markers).

Ellie will send out the donations in the 2023 budget ( \$100 each Friends Of Higley Flow State Park, Indian Creek Nature Center, Bayside Cemetery, Potsdam Recreation).

We also allocated \$100 from the 2024 budget for ADK voices so they can renew their platform subscription. Ellie will send it to the Club in January.

## **Officer Reports**

Membership – no report from Kathleen since she just started. 304 voting members at this point. (Also see discussion of new, lapsed, and no-email members above.)

Outings – Holly reports that 8-11 trips + weekly walks are likely. In 2023 we only had 14 leaders who actually led outings. 7 are now certified to lead in 2024 (i.e., completed the leave-no-trace and sexual harassment trainings. All but 2 of our trips were level 1, which simplifies meeting the club's requirements for leaders and outings. We offered over 100 outings in 2023 (including weekly walks).

Education – Blair is doing a series of outings with the Potsdam Public Library with an educational component. An opportunity for all of us: Tom French's son Dan just joined Nature Up North. He would love to have community people do joint events with them. It was noted that partnerships with other local organizations are valuable both as educational opportunities and as ways for the chapter to reach out to members of the community who might not otherwise interact with Adk.

Red Sandstone – Blair reports that the SUNY Wilderness Ed students worked in Stone Valley this fall, including moving a large rock in the gulch.

Conservation – Discussion of a project originally proposed by Jon Montan (see below) to build a canoe launch on the Oswegatchie. Getting an easement from the adjacent landowner to permit canoe access could be a sticking point. Blair reported that SUNY Potsdam's provost owns land there, may know the relevant landowner, and might be willing to make introductions. Funding for this project could come from the Oswegatchie River Advisory Committee. Blair reported that he and others had asked Dick MacDonald about an organizational meeting of the ORAC. Dick can't legally convene the committee until more of the original signatories reply to him.

Advisory Council (Tom O) – Brief discussion of the AC's agenda for this week, which includes the rating systems (see above), as well as iMIS (the club's new data management system) and the details of lean-to and trail adopter program. David will consider being involved with the iMIS planning.

Next meeting – Thu Feb 22 tentatively, depending on Tom Wheeler's schedule

Adjourned at 7:43 (motion by Tom O, seconded by Ellie)