

ADK Laurentian Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes, October 24, 2024, home of Tom Ortmeier

Called to order 7:09 pm

Attending: Tom Wheeler, Tom vande Water, Tom Ortmeier, Brenda Curley, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Ellie Menz, Holly Woodworth, David Katz, John Barron, Marianne Hebert

Minutes: minutes of August 6, 2024, on motion by Tom O, seconded by Ellie, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Financial reports – not much change from last meeting, except new reimbursement from RRAC for Stone Valley expenditures. 2025 budget – many of the line items are educated guesses, so there is much uncertainty about what the actual net costs will be. Discussion of sending chapter members to Club trainings at Heart Lake. Brookfield is up for relicensing in 2029. Ideally all of the RRAC money will get spent before then to justify future allocations, so any work we want to do for reimbursement by the RRAC should be submitted soon. Tom O will talk to AC Conservation Committee, Kathy Pedlar, and various others about replacing O'Malley Brook bridge in Stone Valley.

Officer reports

- Tom Ortmeier, Advisory Council Trustee – AC met in August. A good meeting, new interim director in attendance. Next AC meeting is in mid-November. iMIS is proceeding very slowly. Search for new Club ED is ongoing.

- Tom vande Water, Conservation – no news from DEC on Oswegatchie canoe launch. Tom will consider whether to attend Rich Road solar project discussions about trails. He and Brenda will work on conservation education opportunities. DEC is revisiting the SLMP. There is pressure to open wilderness trails to motorized use by people needing handicapped access. We need to push back against this and assert that wilderness means no motors.

- Holly Woodworth, Outings – 9 outings and 13 weekly walks this fall. We have 12 certified level 1 trip leaders. There are 35 other people who have led trips in the past who have not responded to emails asking about their current interest in leading (or getting certified to lead). Holly will assemble the Jan-Mar outings for Tom W's review and approval.

- Brenda Curley, Education – will email potential trip leaders about training. She will also pursue other ideas: bike maintenance class, spring paddling techniques class.

- Kathleen Fitzgerald, Membership – The Club's membership software has not been generating the monthly updates as in the past, so nothing to report.

- David Katz, Secretary/webmaster – Will put an obituary for Gene Kaczka in the December mailing and/or the on the website when one becomes available.

- Tom Wheeler, Chair – see Bylaws Committee report.

Planning for January 1 – Higley space is reserved. Anyone interested in helping plan should contact Tom W.

Abolition of 3-year memberships – the Club has eliminated 3-year memberships. John Barron wonders why they did this and what we think about this. There seem to be many reasons why it's a bad idea (more administrative headaches for members and Club, fewer renewals, waiting longer for dues) and no reasons why it's a good idea. Tom O will raise the question with the AC.

Bylaws Committee – Reviewed some of the bylaws changes that Tom W, Tom O, and Holly have been working on. They expect to have changes done in November in time for review and (hopefully) adoption by the end of the year..

Nominating Committee – no progress to report. Volunteers for the committee should talk to Tom W.

Potluck – Discussion of the twice-yearly potlucks that were the norm before covid. Some chapter members might prefer indoor potlucks to the outdoor summer and New Year's potlucks. Tom will see about scheduling a chapter potluck as part of an Indoors-Outdoors this winter.

Next meeting: Thu Dec 12, 7:00 pm, Ellie Menz's house

Adjourned: 8:45 pm