

ADK Laurentian Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes, December 12, 2024, home of Ellie Menz

Called to order 7:07 pm

Attending: Tom Wheeler, Tom Ortmeyer, Tom Vande Water, Ellie Menz, Brenda Curley, David Katz, Mark Simon, Dana Chudzinski, Blair Madore, John Barron

Minutes: minutes of October 24, 2024, on motion by Tom VdW, seconded by Tom O, passed unanimously.

Guests: Mark Simon, Blair Madore, attending to discuss Stone Valley and Red Sandstone trails. John Barron attended to present the Nominating Committee's report.

Tom O arranged with Adk to have Kayla & Virginia meet with Mark about Stone Valley and Blair about Red Sandstone to see if there were appropriate projects at SV &/or RS for either pro trail crew or volunteer trail crews. Meetings happened this week. Hiring the pro crew to replace the bridge across O'Malley Brook would cost \$30k. Bridge could be built by volunteer crew, but pro crew could build a bridge that would survive serious rainstorms better. There are also projects suitable for volunteer trail crews. Should we recommend spending the \$30k? Consensus is that best choice is for Mark to keep working on it. Blair offers to help lining up college students to help.

Another funding question: if the club puts a volunteer trail crew here, they will want us to pay something for it. Blair asked them for an accounting for what it actually costs to field the volunteer crew. The fact that the club's money and the chapter's money are all tied together makes it difficult to see the difference between club and chapter paying. Consensus: ask for 2 weeks of volunteer crew. Ask RRAC to help pay if needed.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer's report was received. A significant portion of our 2024 budget remains unspent.

The following year-end donations were approved. Abstentions were due to conflict of interest concerns by EC members who also serve on the recipients' boards of directors.
Bayside Cemetery - \$100 (Tom VdW moved, Brenda seconded, unanimous)
Potsdam Recreation - \$100 (Ellie moved, Tom O seconded, unanimous)
Higley \$100 – (Brenda moved, Tom O seconded, 5 yes, 1 abstention)
Indoam Creek Nature Center - \$100 (Tom O moved, Brenda seconded, 4 yes 3 abstentions)

Blair will order and get invoices for t-shirts for trailworkers before the end of the year.

Nominating Committee:

Email vote: In an email on November 9, 2024, Tom Wheeler proposed a Nominating Committee comprised of John Barron (chair), Blair Madore, and Jeff Miller. On email votes by David Katz, Brenda Curley, Holly Woodworth, Tom Van de Water, and Tom Wheeler, the Nominating Committee was approved unanimously.

John Barron reported the problem finding a Treasurer. The EC will have to appoint someone in January. Tom W has some possibilities in mind.

Officer reports

- Tom Ortmeyer, Advisory Council Trustee – The Club is searching for new ED, probably to be selected soon after New Year. At last AC meeting there was an iMIS training. Chapter needs to appoint up to 3 administrators for the chapter's part of the new website. Tom W proposes Tom O, David, Dana as administrators and will figure out how to make that happen. AC is working on improving morale with members and chapters. Tom is optimistic that having the new ED in place will help.

- Tom Vande Water, Conservation – Oswegatchie Oxbow canoe launch project still in limbo. Rich Rd solar project is interested in the idea of incorporating bike paths in the project. Blair will get Tom VdW the contact info for the ORAC (Oswegatchie River Advisory Committee) organizer. Tom will talk to the organizer in an effort to get the ORAC off the ground so that it can begin funding projects such as the canoe launch.

- Kathleen Fitzgerald, Membership – Kathleen has not received anything from the Club since our last meeting, so nothing to report.

- Tom Wheeler, Chair – met with incoming chair of North Woods chapter John Omohundro. They talked about a joint meeting between the 2 executive committees. Consensus was to arrange a joint meeting at Paul Smiths VIC. Tom and John will come up with date(s) in late February.

Bylaws Committee – Discussed a few items still under discussion. Tom O & John expect that the bylaws will be finalized soon.

Next meeting: Thu Feb 20, 7:00 pm, at the home of Lila Hunnewell in Canton

Adjourned: 8:48 pm