

Laurentian Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes 2/20/2025
49 Farmer Street, Canton, NY

Present: Brenda Curley, Dana Chudzinski, Tom Ortmeyer, Tom Wheeler, Lila Hunnewell, and Marianne Hebert

Absent: Ellie Menz, Tom Vandewater, David Katz

In the absence of the Secretary, Tom Wheeler agreed to take the minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 and it was determined that a quorum was present.

The minutes of the meeting of December 12, 2024 were approved unanimously on Motion by Brenda Curley and second by Tom Ortmeyer

The Treasurer had brought to the attention of the Board that the chapter has not been selling items for a number of years but must still file a sales tax return every year and risks a financial penalty if it is filed in an untimely manner.

Motion made by Dana Chudzinski and seconded by Tom Ortmeyer to authorize the Treasurer to file a final sales tax return and relinquish out sales tax number. In discussion it was determined that if in some future year the chapter should decide to resume sales obtaining a new tax number should not be difficult. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tom Wheeler mentioned that Neil Burdick has informed him that the Deadline for submission of articles for the April, May, June issue is March 6th. There was a general discussion about how to do this and the role of Neil Burdick and Marianne Hebert in publishing the newsletter.

Tom Ortmeyer reported on matters at the Club level. The search for a new Executive Director is ongoing and perhaps behind schedule. The actions of the Board of Directors have become opaque as neither Board minutes nor financial reports are released to the public. However he is pleased that the new Advisory Committee representative Rich Ross from the Black River Chapter will be a strong advocate for Chapters and the former Advisory committee representative Kate Hacker is now a regular member of the Board. The Board is still operating under procedures promulgated by the previous Executive Director and it is a possibility that with a new ED the rules may be modified. The Executive Director provides a redacted report of board actions to the Advisory committee.

IMIS continues to advance despite some difficulties with the program. Both of the individuals who initially recommended this program are no longer working for ADK. There is a new release form available on the Club website. Recently a form that allows for group signatures has been added. The liability release is now about twice as long as before.

Lila asked where Headquarters is now and the response was that since the sale of the Lake George headquarters that different staff positions are working from different locations and there is no single unified "headquarters".

A discussion was held concerning discontinuation of the X (formerly Twitter) account. This account has not been used recently and because it has become highly politicized it was thought that it did not meet the needs of the Chapter. Marianne has maintained an active Facebook account which provides weekly chapter information, photographs of events, and reminders. A motion was made by Brenda Curley that the X account be terminated. This was seconded by Dana Chudzinski. The motion was passed unanimously. It was understood that Marianne would take care of terminating the account.

Dana Chudzinski discussed his transition to Outings Chair. He has had a lot of cooperation from Holly Woodworth including an outline of procedures. He has received the list of qualified trip leaders from

the Club website as well as a different list from Holly and will work with both to develop outings. Marianne indicated that he may have to contact trip leaders to obtain backtracks from trip leaders. Apparently some qualified trip leaders filed their proof of training with Holly and not with the club. It is hoped that new trip leaders can be persuaded to take the necessary training. It appears that the club requires the Chapter Chair to verify that some leaders are experienced. With a deadline in two weeks he will be sending out requests for outings in the immediate future. A discussion was held concerning joint trips with Black River Chapter and it was agreed that this was a good idea.

Lila Hunnewell enquired about receiving a membership list. Our administrators for the IMIS system have been given necessary credentials (Dana Chudzinski, David Katz, and Tom Ortmeyer). Tom O. will provide Lila with a membership list.

Lila Hunnewell mentioned that she has not been a member of the club for years. Since this is a requirement for being on the executive committee she was asked to immediately rejoin. [It is noted by the Chair that if her vote is invalid that based on the number of the executive committee without her (7) that a quorum would be four and that a quorum was present and that there was a majority of the Executive Committee in favor of the motions approved at this meeting.]

A discussion was held on incentives for membership. Lila suggested a monetary incentive with a reduced membership fee supplemented by funds from the chapter. There were concerns about how this could be done. There was also consideration of other possible incentives. It was decided to defer further consideration of this to the next meeting.

A discussion was held about gift membership funding. It was not clear whether this is specifically budgeted for in the current budget. This is an ongoing program. Marianne proposed that Jessica Heck who has enthusiasm and experience as a guide be granted a complimentary membership. It was decided that if there is no specific budget item that this could be paid out of the Education Budget. The complimentary membership was approved unanimously.

Brenda Curley indicated that she has had discussion with two presenters concerning education offerings. She has talked with John Ozard about a paddling workshop and he showed a willingness to do an instructional program. It would be in the Potsdam Canton area. She also spoke with a gentleman about doing a bicycle maintenance program. The cost is well within our budget and the only issue is finding an appropriate location. The Crary Mills grange was one suggestion or a local fire hall. The Committee felt that both offerings sounded quite interesting.

There was mention that some chapters have become approved presenters for leadership training and it was suggested that this be explored. One of those chapters is Genesee Valley.

A motion was made by Brenda Curley and seconded by Tom Ortmeyer to adjourn which passed unanimously. Refreshments were then provided by our hostess.

It was agreed that the next meeting be at the Wheeler residence and that the meeting take place at six pm on the 24th of April. Those interested in arriving early may take advantage of the trails adjacent to the property.

The business meeting terminated at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Wheeler