

Adirondack Mountain Club, Laurentian Chapter  
Executive Committee Meeting, 9/11/2025

Called to order at 7:05 pm.

**Attending:** Tom Wheeler, Brenda Curley, Ellie Menz, Tom Ortmeyer, Dana Chudzinski, Blair Madore, David Katz

**Minutes** of June 6, 2025, meeting – Brenda moved we adopt the minutes as prepared, Tom O seconded, passed unanimously

**Treasurer's Report** – we have only had 2 expenditures. Even with remaining expected expenses, we will come in well under budget. Tom O, Dana seconded acceptance of Treasurer's report.

**Northwind** – Deadline for submission of articles for the Oct-Nov-Dec issue is Sept 13.

### Reports

- Advisory Council Trustee, Tom Ortmeyer – AC met in August.
  - A subcommittee is putting together a list of needs for new computer system, which is likely to be based on Salesforce.
  - Adirondac is going online. More content will be put out more frequently, so total amount of content could increase. Neal Burdick later reported that the plan is to reduce the full-octane print magazine to once a year [not wipe it out completely, though that's next] and replace the others with print and online newsletters, frequency, paper quality, length, content, et al. TBD (eventually...). The reason is not so much financial as a desire to appeal to a younger, less literate audience, although research suggests that may backfire.
  - Cascade Center is not financially viable as is. BoD is considering options, including rehabilitating the building or selling the property. Reasons for financial difficulties are complicated.
  - Discussion of all-club outings. Winter 2027 outing may be based at Massawepie. Laurentian Chapter might provide trip leaders.

Tom W mentioned that Fall 2026 outing will be hosted by Northwoods Chapter, chaired by John Omohundro. John has asked whether the Laurentian Chapter might help by leading trips, providing volunteer staff, etc.

- Conservation, Tom Vandewater (absent). Tom V and Tom W are going to put together a monthly discussion group (second Wednesdays) that will include readings on conservation issues.
- Outings, Dana Chudzinski – 18 outings scheduled for this fall (including weekly walks). Received a questionnaire from the club about trips led, trip leaders, people attending, etc. He was also asked whether the leader certification was causing problems finding leaders. There are only 2 chapter members on the club list of certified leaders, but several leaders are known by Dana to have done the certification courses. After discussion, it was decided that Dana will assume leaders have taken the courses if they say they have. Tom O will ask other chapters whether they are having problems. Discussion of whether we can offer the necessary courses locally to attract people who might want to lead trips.

- Education, Brenda Curley – no report

- Membership (vacant)

- Secretary/webmaster, David Katz – Domain name registration and website hosting packages need to be renewed in 2026. Cost for 3-year renewal will be around \$500. Consensus: renew for 3 years, budgeting \$550.

- Chair, Tom Wheeler – Reserved the Potsdam Presbyterian Church for Nov 16 for fall potluck and Higley for Jan 1. Photo contest winners will be revealed at Nov 16 potluck. Annual meeting will be held electronically.

**Bylaws revision** – Tom O explained that the Bylaws Committee (Tom O, Holly Woodworth, John Barron) recommends revising the chapter bylaws to harmonize chapter officer descriptions with club requirements. Flexibility to hold electronic meetings was also added. Brenda moved that we approve sending the proposed amended bylaws to the membership via a process to be worked out by David K and Marianne Hebert. Seconded by Dana, carries unanimously.

**2026 budget** – due to club in 2 weeks. Ellie will adjust 2025 expected expenditures preparatory to preparing the 2026 budget. Discussion of items and amounts to put in 2026 budget. Ellie will email the budget to us and submit it to the club.

**Vacancies** – representative needed to replace Blair on Raquette River Advisory Committee & West Branch St Regis RAC – there are 2 mtgs/year, typically September and May. Mark Simon, Tom VDW, Marianne, or John Tenbusch would be a good representative. Tom W will appoint a new representative.

**Nominating Committee** – 4 positions need to be filled. Tom will appoint the committee this week.

**Next meeting** – Thu Oct 16, 7pm, at Tom Wheeler’s house

**Adjourned** at 9:09

**Addendum** – By email votes Sept 29 & 30, Tom W’s appointment of the Nominating Committee composed of Blair Madore (Chair), John Barron, and Anne Csete was approved (6 ayes, 1 abstention).