

Adirondack Mountain Club, Laurentian Chapter
Executive Committee Meeting, 12/11/2025

Called to order at 7:12 pm.

Attending: Tom Wheeler, Ellie Menz, Tom Ortmeyer, Dana Chudzinski, Tom vande Water, Brenda Curley, David Katz, John Barron

Minutes of Oct 23, 2025, meeting – Tom vande Water moved we adopt the minutes as prepared, Ellie seconded, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Our 2025 YTD actual expenses are lower than budgeted, so our net assets are higher than expected - \$6,373 compared to \$4,938 at this time last year. Discussion of paper vs. electronic records led to the decision that Ellie and/or David would set up a Google account and Ellie would begin putting records on the account. Both paper and electronic records will be maintained to see how the electronic records work out. There was also discussion of periodic financial reviews, with no decision made.

Reports

- Advisory Council Trustee, Tom Ortmeyer – Last AC meeting included report from the IT committee about the new content management system. Salesforce will be used for most but not all functions. Meeting also included a report from the Outings committee, which included proposed revision of the chapter outing leader requirements. Nearly all chapters have reported a drop in outings and a drop in leaders. Staff will review the proposed changes and send it back to the AC for further review.

- Conservation, Tom Vandewater – Has done some background work on how “sustainable forestry” is being practiced on conservation easements and whether the APA and DEC are overseeing them adequately and whether the landowners are actually practicing greenwashing rather than sustainable forestry. Efforts to look into this will continue. Easement lands seem to be underused for public recreation, so we need to advocate for increased public use of easement lands.

- Outings, Dana Chudzinski – We have 2 certified level 1 trip leaders, and 2 more who have also reached level 2. Eight others have started the certification process. Dana will nudge people who need to be certified or recertified. Should we financially support people working towards level 2 & 3 certification? Cost would be \$100 – 200 per individual. We might be able to offer classes. Consensus was that we should reimburse potential leaders for the classes they are required to take.

- Education, Brenda Curley – Discussion of offering wilderness first aid class and providing (partial) reimbursement for chapter members who take the class.

- Membership (vacant)

- Secretary/webmaster, David Katz – no report.

- Chair, Tom Wheeler – Mark Simon has not been submitting receipts for Stone Valley work. When he submits them, this will affect our budget by increasing our expenses and, assuming reimbursement as anticipated from RRAC, increasing our income by the same amount.

Year-end donations – David moved and Brenda seconded that we donate \$135 each to Friends of Higley Flow State Park, Indian Creek Nature Center, and Bayside Cemetery. The motion passed with 5 yes votes and 2 abstentions (Tom vande Water and Tom Wheeler, who are both on the ICNC board).

Jan 1 potluck – will be a joint outing with Friends of Higley Flow.

Next meeting – Jan 29, 2026, 7:00 pm, at Tom Wheeler's house.

Adjourned at 8:50 pm.