Minutes of meeting of the Laurentian Chapter Adirondack Mountain Club 3-15-26

Present: Tom Wheeler, Tom Vande Water, Tom Ortmeyer, Dana Chudzinski, Ellie Menz, and Debra Mitchell
Kim Baxter was absent due to illness, but emailed that she had no new report.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm

Minutes of the January 29th, 2026 meeting submitted by Tom Wheeler were reviewed. Tom Ortmeyer indicated that the staff member referred to in his report is Ray Fusco not Sisco. A motion was made by Tom Vande Water to approve the minutes with that correction.. The motion was seconded by Ellie Menz. After discussion the motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Ellie reported that we have an account balance of $5,618.73. One check was written to Domain Web-host in the amount of $349.70. We should receive additional funds from ADK of $872 in the last 4 months.

Advisory Council Trustee Report: Tom Ortmeyer reported on his meetings with ADK Leadership and the new guidelines for trip leaders as well as new restrictions on certain types of outings such as mountaineering and white water paddling involving insurance coverage. Trips must now be submitted to ADK for approval. If trips are not approved they cannot run. Everyone must sign the required releases. There was some discussion on the 2028 Winter Outing to be held at Massawepie organized by the Black River Chapter.

Conservation: Tom Vande Water reported about communications concerning an Open Space Conservation Grant. As we are not a land trust we are not eligible for a grant. He mentioned that such organizations as the St. Lawrence County Land Trust who own Hart's Falls in Pyrites might be eligible or that grants might fund easements on private lands. Logging operations in the Adirondacks was also discussed. He posed a question, "Would we as a group say that we advocate for the rights of the Raquette river?" Framework being does the river have a right to flow which could limit development. There was further discussion of our role in Advocacy, Conservation, Trail Work and ADK Lobbying.

Outings: Dana reported that there are currently 15 members in our chapter with Trip Leader Certification of whom 9 members who have met the criteria for Level 1. There are some new procedures where an outing must be approved by The Club in order to be listed in our Newsletter and on the Master Calendar. He reports it takes about 1 week to get approval and suggested that he will start soliciting trips 4 weeks in advance in the future in order for trips to be listed in the chapter's newsletter.. If an outing is not approved by the Club it will not be covered by insurance. Currently all Level 3 trips are cancelled until further notice. We discussed the Fall Outing to be held in Saranac Lake in September and organized by the Northwoods Chapter.

Education: Kim Baxter was not present and communicated she has nothing new to report.

Secretary: Debra Mitchell, nothing to report.

Chair: Tom Wheeler reported on the Indian Creek Nature Center's Field Days and discussed having a booth there. Tom Wheeler said that this has been a very successful event involving the public schools and that it involves fifth graders. The last one had over 300 participants each day. There were stations set up on water sampling, tick prevention, bird watching, etc. and students spend 20m. at each station. It was held during the school day. Tom said he would be willing to volunteer for this and Kim Baxter had agreed to participate He also discussed being approached to do a SOAR class on the Adirondacks. Everyone discussed the possibility of doing one on the history of the Adirondacks and/or introducing people new to the area about The Adirondacks and all the things there are to do. He discussed that we have not yet had a vote to approve the new Bylaws. We also discussed Tom's Resolution with respect to Leadership expense. It was decided unanimously that the calendar year reimbursement for training should not exceed $200 per individual and that total reimbursement for the calendar year shouldn't exceed the sum the amount budgeted each year. This year's budget for leadership training is presently $1000.00. However Ellie raised that if we have members who want to complete trip leader training especially for the higher levels that we should increase that budget as we really need more Level 2 and 3 trip leaders. A motion was made to approve the resolution and it was approved by everyone present. A copy is attached.

The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on May 7th at Kim Baxter's home, 28 Cemetery Rd. Winthrop, New York.

The meeting was adjourned close to 4:45pm.

Resolution with respect to Leadership Training expense.

Resolved that the Laurentian Chapter shall reimburse the tuition cost for current or prospective trip leaders for courses necessary for certification as a level two or three trip leader, subject to the following conditions:

1. No individual shall receive reimbursement exceeding $200 in any calendar year.

2. Reimbursement is for course tuition and does not include transportation, housing, or meal expense.

3. Application for reimbursement must be made withing forty five days of successfully completing the training. The application shall include a copy of the receipt and any certificate.

4. A person shall not be eligible who receives reimbursement from another source except to the extent that the tuition cost exceeds the other reimbursement.

5. An applicant must be a member of the chapter at the time of the training.

6. The applicant shall commit to leading at least two chapter outing within the next twelve months after certification.

7. Total Reimbursements in any calendar year shall not exceed the sum annually budgeted.

8. This policy shall be reviewed annually.

9. A list of recipients shall be published in the North Wind annually.

10. Requests for reimbursement shall be reviewed by the Outings Chair and the Chapter Chair who shall have the authority to direct the Treasurer to provide reimbursement.