

**Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter  
Executive Committee Meeting October 30, 2008  
Minutes Developed by John Barron**

Executive Committee Members Present: Tom Ortmeyer; Gene Kaczka; Rose Rivezzi; John Barron

Appointed Officers Present: John and Susan Omohundro, Dick Mooers

**Agenda**

1. Approval of Minutes and Agenda
2. Committee Reports
3. Photo Contest
4. Expectations of Outings Participants
5. Land Trust
6. Outstanding Volunteer award nominations
7. Chapter Donation(s) to club

**Minutes and Agenda**

The minutes of the August 21 meeting were approved; the only change will be inclusion of page numbering.

The agenda was approved.

**Committee Reports**

Conservation (Gene Kaczka)

The APA decided by a vote of 7-6 to keep float planes off Lows Lake.

E-Letter (Dick Mooers) – nil

North Wind (John Omohundro)

December 1 is a deadline for all submissions for the winter edition. (Note since the meeting: extended to a hard deadline of December 10).

Red Sandstone Trail (John Omohundro)

- The trail was in quite good shape before the late-October snow storm. (Note since the meeting: it has been swept again in November, and is still in good condition).
- A new sign explaining dragon flies was added on the west side of Sugar Island in October.

- The Betty Lou Bailey commemorative sign was placed near the steel bridge in November.
- \$80 has been spent lately on these two signs – very low. About \$60 remains of David Brouwer’s donation for the maintenance of signs.
- There was discussion of ways to protect signs from the elements. Some kind of UV protection is needed.

Stone Valley Trails (Tom Ortmeyer on behalf of Mark Simon)

John Montan requested a tour and talk about the Stone Valley Trails for a conference of the State’s Environmental Management Council being convened in Canton in October. The Chapter gave an affirmative reply. Mark Simon organized the Chapter’s participation. A Brookfield representative spoke about the hydro facilities, and John Omohundro spoke about the Canton tannery and the role of hydroelectric relicensing in creating trails. Tom Ortmeyer spoke about the multi-use trail plan of the County, and Mark Simon led a tour of Stone Valley itself. A group of about twelve conference attendees participated in the tour.

Nominating Committee (John Omohundro)

John acknowledged the excellent contribution of the committee members other than himself: Brad Pendergraft and Neal Burdick. There were a few anecdotes about good times had during the deliberations.

The nominees are: Vice Chair, Outings – Hollis Easter; Vice Chair, Conservation – Peter O’Shea; Membership – Geri Ames; Treasurer – Ellie Menz.

All agreed it is an excellent slate, and applauded the efforts of the nominating committee.

Secretary (John Barron) – Nil

Publicity (John Barron)

Nil. There was brief discussion to the effect that the trip photo press releases continue to be very popular and attract a lot of interest in the larger community.

Education (Rose Rivezzi)

The Chapter sent two campers to Camp Colby. One had such a good time that she wants to apply next year.

Sarah Rice sent a very nice thank you letter.

Rose will try to get digital pictures and permission to publish in the newspapers. (Note since the meeting – Dick Mooers successfully scanned a photo and we have a good-quality digital file available. It is planned to include it, along with an appropriate caption, in next year’s call for participants, which is expected within a couple of months).

One person took part in High School Volunteer Trails, and also had a good time.

The Outdoor/Indoor schedule is taking form. At least two more talks are needed. Here are some ideas being pursued:

- Tom Van de Water and Betsy Kepes about trail maintenance in Idaho.
- Marilyn Fayette and Mary Jane Watson about an Arctic adventure.
- John Barthelme about the salt mines of Timbuktu.
- Louise Clemens about Antarctica.
- Chris Winters about invasive species.
- Mark Simon about Stone Valley construction and its relationship to local environmental issues including relicensing.
- Friends of Higley Flow (Tom French)
- Ski Trails (general suggestion, encompassing power companies, railway companies, Rails to Trails organizations, etc). Rose will try to solidify something.
- Brian Mann (possible speaker for spring pot luck. There was plenty of enthusiastic interest. Tom Ortmeyer will contact him and ask)

Director (Tom Ortmeyer on behalf of David Trithart)

Neither David nor Armond Spencer was able to attend the Directors' Meeting, so no report.

If we have anything we'd like conveyed to the ADK board, we may send it to David.

David is planning to give a presentation about the ADK, the Laurentian Chapter, the Friends of Higley Flow, and outdoor recreation generally, on Superintendent's Day at Gouverneur School. This is a wellness event, targeted primarily at teachers and secondarily at students.

Treasurer (Tom Ortmeyer for Betsy Tisdale)

\$5665 total  
\$1213 checking  
\$1171 savings  
\$3281 CD

Budgeting starts about December. For planning purposes, we can assume funding for Camp Colby and High School Volunteer Trails at the same level as last year.

ADK calendars will be for sale at Sunday's pot luck.

There was a question from John Omohundro: How goes the expenditure? No clear answer was available at this time.

Note on surpluses: Last year's surplus for Volunteer Trails was sent to the ADK, designated for trail work.

### **Photo Contest**

John Barron and Dick Mooers proposed that a photo contest be held in the Chapter. The idea arose after noting that some Chapter photography is at quite a high standard. The concept is a simple, low-cost contest within the Chapter.

Early thinking favored prizes consisting of recognition only, no physical prize at all; but the committee members preferred that prizes of nominal value (dinner out, a gift certificate from Wear on Earth - - - ) be included. It is planned to display a well-printed copy in a prominent location. Newspaper coverage of the winner should be requested.

Judging was considered. The committee favored enlisting a Chapter member with photographic or visual arts skills (Jim Bullard, Betsy Tisdale, Anna Gerhard, and Sandy Hildreth were given as possible examples).

Organizers/administrators are needed. One role would be gathering entries, rendering them anonymous by replacing the name with a number, and forwarding entries to the judge(s).

Dick Mooers and John Barron agreed to strike a committee and pursue the idea. No attempt will be made to publicize this in the winter 2009 edition of the North Wind, to allow details to be worked out.

Action items: select judges; decide type of recognition or prizes; decide format (whether to have monthly winners); decide judging criteria; decide if there should be categories.

### **Expectations of Outing Participants**

This issue was raised following two separate events that caused some concern to different outing leaders. A participant on a paddling trip refused to wear a PFD; and a hiker on an ascent of McKenzie chose to abandon the trip short of the destination.

The consensus of the meeting was that it was valid for a leader to have certain expectations of participants, and that the leader should be entitled to deny participation if they are not met.

In the case of the PFD, it was noted that it was not only Laurentian Chapter expectations that weren't met, but also New York State law that was broken.

There was consensus that participant responsibilities should be codified and publicized.

Leader training was discussed briefly. It was noted that Mark Simon is the best leader trainer in the community.

Incoming Vice Chair, Outings Hollis Easter, and Mark Simon, should take appropriate action. Secretarial note since the meeting – Armond Spencer has done some thinking about this also, and his ideas should be incorporated.

### **Land Trust**

The Kepes's are considering establishing a land trust for their property, to protect it from development. The cost is \$10,000; St. Lawrence Land Trust is considering applying for a \$7,500 grant from New York State toward that cost; the Kepes's will pay the remainder.

The St. Lawrence Land Trust has asked the Laurentian Chapter for a letter of support for the plan, to strengthen the chance of obtaining a grant.

There was support for doing this, and a letter will be sent.

### **Distinguished Volunteer Award Nominations**

More work is needed in establishing a case for an award. It was deferred to the spring meeting of the Chapter.

### **Chapter Donation(s) to Club**

There is still discomfort with making the contribution in memory of Betty Lou Bailey to ADK general revenue. The preference is to make the contribution to the Jamieson Fund, and to initiate measures to spend some of the Jamieson Fund on a constructive project. One possible example of such a project is improving canoe access to the Grasse River below Route 3. The motion from last meeting to contribute \$600 to the Jamieson Fund was passed by consensus.

The Chapter appears to be running a surplus in Education, and it was proposed to send \$500 to the ADK for trail projects. This received support-in-principle, depending on a determination of the detailed financial status of the Chapter to be developed.

### **Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be determined later, with input from incoming members of the Executive.