

**Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter  
Executive Committee Meeting September 10, 2009  
Minutes Developed by John Barron**

Meeting was held at Clarkson Center for Advanced Materials Processing (CAMP) room 149, beginning at 7 PM.

Executive Committee Members Present: Tom Ortmeier; Hollis Easter; Geri Ames; John Barron; Ellie Menz

Appointed Officers Present: Gene Kaczka (Nominating Committee)

**Agenda**

Approval of minutes and agenda  
Announcements  
Officer Reports  
Report of the nominating committee  
Donation to club

**Minutes and Agenda**

The minutes of the May 28 meeting were approved, subject to the following:

- Correcting “Pat Woods” to “Pat Whalen”
- Obtaining the correct name of “Dennis (?). This was done with input from Peter O’Shea on 27-28 September. A postscript note giving more details from Peter was added secretarially, and the minutes were finalized.

The agenda was approved.

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Gene Kaczka explained the thinking and the sequence of events that led to the selection of the slate of candidates. Proposed by the Nominating Committee, which consisted of Gene Kaczka (chair), Betsy Tisdale, and Tom Wheeler, are:

Chair - John Barron (1st term)  
Secretary - Marianne Hebert (1st term)  
Vice-Chair Education - Blair Madore (1st term)  
Director, David Trithart (2nd term)  
Alternative-Director - Armond Spencer (2nd term)

The report of the Committee, including candidate biographies, is attached (Annex A).

**Officer Reports**

Vice Chair, Education (Rose Rivezzi)

Rose couldn't attend this meeting. Her written report is attached (Annex B).

Vice Chair, Conservation (Peter O'Shea)

Peter couldn't attend this meeting. His report was sent to the North Wind and will appear in the Fall edition. It is attached (Annex C).

Vice Chair, Outings (Hollis Easter)

Hollis noted that the schedule is a bit thin this season.

Comments were received from some sources that the outing schedule has very great variety (which is positive).

Publicity (John Barron)

We developed and released a detailed story about Lyle Montgomery's completion of the Winter 46; many newspapers have printed it.

Secretary (John Barron) – Nil.

Membership (Geri Ames)

No changes – 465 members.

Treasurer (Ellie Menz)

Ellie tabled financial statements for the period (attached, Annex D). The Chapter is in very good financial position.

Ellie proposed to make several changes to the way the Chapter holds funds. It was agreed to wind down the Money Market account, which has been earning little interest and creating administrative effort. Ellie offered to research the interest rates being offered on CD's at other institutions, because she suspects there are better rates elsewhere than at North Country Savings. (Note since the meeting – the research was conducted and confirmed the opinion that better rates are available).

Stone Valley Trails Coordinator (Mark Simon)

Mark couldn't attend the meeting. His report follows here:

We will do trail work in Stone Valley Saturday October 31. We are interested in having volunteers and would like the event published on the website. In addition, I have still been working with Brookfield power to complete the blocking access to ATVs project. We have about \$2,300 to spend on moving rocks and logs with heavy equipment. It has been going slowly, as it is difficult to Tim Limoux to find free time to meet with the contractor, however, I expect the project to be completed this fall.

## Chair

There has been no reply from the Club or the Chapter about use of the Jamieson Fund

It is noted that we have to develop a budget for the new year at the January meeting.

Neither David Trithart nor Armond Spencer will be able to attend the next meeting of the ADK Board of Directors. Tom Ortmeyer will attend it to represent the Chapter.

## **Announcements**

Betty Peckham will be stepping down as Archivist. Tom will place a call in the North Wind for people interested in succeeding her.

The ADK acknowledged the donation by the Chapter on the occasion of National Trails Day. They sent two T-Shirts commemorating National Trails Day 2009 at Cranberry Lake (Small and Large); suggestions are welcome how best to use these.

## **Additional Item – Advertising in the North Wind**

There was a discussion about the Wear on Earth advertisement in the North Wind. . It was decided in future to request payment upon placing an order, rather than after an issue is printed.

Hollis Easter will research other potential advertisers in the North Wind (e.g. outfitters, guides).

Ellie Menz offered to draft a contract/agreement form for future advertising.

Tom Ortmeyer will contact John and Susan Omohundro to develop ways and means to handle ads.

## **Donation to the Club**

This was deferred to the next meeting to determine a detailed knowledge of the Chapter's financial status at the end of the year.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be November 19.

## **Annex A**

### **To Minutes of Laurentian Chapter Minutes, 10 September 2009 Nominating Committee Report**

The 2009 nominating committee of the Laurentian Chapter composed of Gene Kaczka (chair), Betsy Tisdale, and Tom Wheeler is happy to announce the following slate of officers for a term of two years, 2010 – 2011. The election will be held in November at our annual chapter potluck dinner/meeting. According to chapter bylaws, a member may serve two consecutive two year terms in the same office. The position of the Director is governed by ADK Club bylaws and may serve three consecutive two year terms. The committee sincerely thanks these chapter members for being willing to assume new or continuing roles as Laurentian Chapter leaders.

Chair - John Barron (1st term)

Secretary - Marianne Hebert (1st term)

Vice-Chair Education - Blair Madore (1st term)

Director, David Trithardt (2nd term)

Alternative-Director - Armond Spencer (2nd term)

#### **For Chair - John Barron**

A Laurentian Chapter member since 1997, John has led trips of almost every kind. He joined ADK to support trail maintenance, but didn't participate in trail activities until 2001 when he completed the 46 high peaks. He decided rather than seek more and bigger peaks to try to get to know the Adirondacks better, in the company of his son, Niall, and people who knew them better. He has served as the chapter's publicity coordinator since 2005 and concurrently as chapter secretary since January 2008. Even though he lives in Ottawa, he has been regularly attending chapter executive committee meetings for about 5 years.

#### **For Vice-Chair Education, Blair Madore**

I initially joined in 2001 to get the 20% discount on books and maps but I quickly discovered ADK was a lot more than just information.. Most everyone I knew in Potsdam interested in hiking or canoeing was an ADK Laurentian member. I really wanted to be a member of that special "club". And I really value our local initiatives like Stone Valley, the Red Sandstone Trail and the Kids on the Trail Challenge. The Adirondack Park is very unusual as parks go. It seems the best parts are hidden away and only the initiated can find them. I think that tourists and residents alike would benefit from better signs and marketing that made the best of the Adirondacks easier to locate and experience.

#### **For Secretary, Marianne Hebert**

Marianne has been a librarian at SUNY Potsdam, and an ADK member since moving to the North Country in 2001. She enjoys participating in ADK hikes and looks forward to working with the Laurentian Chapter Executive Board to promote chapter activities. She is currently the Secretary to the SUNY Potsdam Faculty Senate, and has been an executive board member of several professional organizations. She is an avid hiker, marginal cross-country skier and pretty bad ice-skater. She spends way too much time watching DIY home improvement television, evidenced by her dwindling savings account and endless landscaping and home remodeling projects.

**For Director - David Trithardt**

A member since 1985, David has been an active leader of biking, hiking and skiing trips. He has been Vice-Chair of Outings (1989-1990), Secretary(1997-1999), Chapter Chair(2000-2001 and Director (2007-present) [He received the Laurentian Chapter's Distinguished Volunteer Award in 2003]. "While not the biggest (in terms of membership) of the ADK chapters, our chapter, and every local chapter is important to the health and vitality of ADK. Laurentian has always been my chapter – and I have come to know our region and many of the chapter members. I enjoy events with these people and helping with local projects (such as Stone Valley and Red Sandstone trails). There is a long tradition of concern for conservation issues in the chapter – and I feel privileged to have a part in continuing the work begun by this dedicated group."

**For Alternate Director - Armond Spencer**

Since joining the club in 1972, Armond has led many trips over the years: Canoeing hiking, snowshoeing and X-C skiing. After becoming a 46er, he decided to do it again to become a Winter 46er. He recalls serving as co-chair for outings during the 70s and served again as Vice-Chair of Outings from 2005 to 2008.

"Although the chapter does many things I appreciate, its primary importance to me is the group of friends, many of our age group who do the things we like to do. In a word: outings."

## **Annex B**

### **To Minutes of Laurentian Chapter Minutes, 10 September 2009 Vice Chair, Education Report**

- 1) The Beginning Hiking Series was a big success. I will be leading another hike up Azure Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Ready to think about Outdoor/Indoor ideas. Please send me any ideas.
- 3) Below are responses from Logan Buckmaster who took part in the teen trail volunteer program and Michaela Wilson who was one of the sponsored campers fro Camp Colby.

Dear Ms. Rivezzi,

First, I must thank you for sponsoring me on my ADK volunteer trip. You will be happy to know that it was a huge success!

Our main goal was to cut a new trail that would connect the Flume Trail network to Marble Mountain. We cut approximately 5/8 of a mile of new trail completing all but 100 yards of the trail that was to be finished at a later date when the trail would be officially opened.

To our trail leaders surprise, we finished our trail a day and a half ahead of schedule. We weren't even expected to get the whole thing done that week! After taking the latter half of the day off to rest and have some fun, we headed out the next morning to finish up a section of the new Marcy Dam Trail which had been made earlier in the Spring by the pro crew. Our work there included side grading for proper water drainage and removal of a very large stump that was in the trail along with roots that passing hikers kept falling over and finally the cut and removal of a large dead pine that decided to lean directly over the trail.

Once again, I cannot thank you enough for sponsoring me on my trip which I enjoyed greatly! Thanks again!

Sincerely, Logan J. Buckmaster

Adirondack Mountain Club,

Thank you for sponsoring my stay at Camp Colby. I had a great time and enjoyed the activities. I got to participate in a lot of new things.

One of the activities I enjoyed the most was the archery. I had never shot a bow before. I loved it. I also enjoyed our canoe trip around the lake. I got to see wild life and water plants that I had never seen before.

I made new friends and liked a lot of the games we played. I was also able to complete my hunter's safety course and shoot a .22. ( I just wish I could have hit the target).

Well I just wanted to say thank you for the sponsorship. I had fun and I hope the next child you sponsor has as much fun as I did.

Thank you all,  
Michaela Wilson

## **Annex C**

### **To Minutes of Laurentian Chapter Minutes, 10 September 2009 Vice Chair, Conservation Report**

#### 1.) Rooftop Highway

The proponents of the rooftop highway have changed its name to I-98 and persuaded Sen. Gillibrand to apply for \$150M of federal stimulus funds to advance this project. This highway, which is not justified by the volume of traffic currently existing, would severely impact the environment of the St. Lawrence Valley by draining wetlands and drastically depleting open space. It would also disrupt a vital wildlife corridor between the Adirondack Park and wild areas of southern Canada. Socially the havoc to be caused by the destruction of hundreds of homes, businesses and farms through the process of eminent domain seems also not to have been considered by supporters. We hope an effective advocacy group will be formed locally to provide some balance in regard to this proposed \$2-4B project.

#### 2.) Hamlet Expansion in the Adirondack Park

The APA appears to be proceeding at the behest of local towns and counties to implement a broad scale expansion in the park with what many consider undue haste. As hamlets are in general not subject to APA jurisdiction this process has the potential to spawn New Jersey- and Long Island-style suburban sprawl in the Adirondack Park. Environmental groups are only beginning now to take notice of this process, which has been underway for some time! Stay tuned.

#### 3.) Finch-Pruyn and Follensby Pond

DEC Commissioner Peter Grannis stated to the Adirondack Daily Enterprise editorial board recently that DEC intends to honor its obligation to purchase these crucial parcels from the Nature Conservancy. We hope this can be done in a timely fashion to relieve the Nature Conservancy of their heavy debt load. Lobbying by environmental advocates and organizations might be necessary in the future to ensure that these unparalleled acquisitions in the Adirondack Park come to a successful conclusion!

#### 4.) Protect The Adirondacks

The merger of the former Residents' Committee and The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks is now essentially complete and awaiting final ratification by the NYS Attorney General's office. The newly-merged group now known as Protect the Adirondacks has offices in Niskayuna and Saranac Lake and is gearing up to confront the many grave threats to the integrity of the Adirondack Park that have recently arisen.

## **Annex D**

### **To Minutes of Laurentian Chapter Minutes, 10 September 2009 Treasurer – Financial Statements (following)**