

Adirondack Mountain Club Laurentian Chapter
Executive Committee Meeting July 20, 2011
Minutes

The Executive Committee meeting was held at 7:00pm on Wednesday, July 20, 2011, at the residence of Carolyn Kaczka, Hannawa Falls.

Officers Attending: John Barron, Marianne Hebert, Blair Madore.

Appointed Positions Attending: Carolyn Kaczka, Dick Mooers, Tom Ortmeyer, John Omohundro.

Guests: Gene Kaczka

AGENDA

Approval of Agenda and the Minutes of the March 23 and May 18 Meetings

– J. Barron moved, B. Madore 2nd. Minutes were approved unanimously. E. Menz and B. Mueller cast votes by E-Mail after the meeting in favor of approving the minutes, so there was quorum for this purpose

Appointment of Nominating Committee (Armond Spencer, Tom Ortmeyer, and Blair Madore are proposed) – It was questioned as to whether the Nominating Committee should have representatives from both appointed and elected positions. J. Barron responded that it was more of a question of logistics and practicality. J. Barron moved to accept the proposed Nominating Committee, M. Hebert 2nd. The motion was approved unanimously. E. Menz and B. Mueller had authorized J. Barron to cast proxy votes on their behalf in favor of the proposed Nominating Committee, so there was quorum for this purpose.

It was noted that the following positions are up for re-election: Chair, Director, Secretary, Vice Chair of Education, and Alternate Director. The Nominating Committee needs to have its slate of candidates by Sept so it can be published in the Fall newsletter. Several suggestions were made for candidates: J. Barron suggested Mark Martin for Trail Coordinator. J. Omohundro suggested Betsy Kepes or Doug Dominy for Vice Chair of Education. B. Madore requested a latest copy of membership so the Nominating Committee could identify potential candidates.

St. Lawrence County Multi-Use Trails Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement

J. Barron reported on recent developments regarding the draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement. He reported that Mark Simon raised objections to the Impact Statement and had concerns about ATV trespassers. The DEC has

requested an extension of reply deadline until Aug 17th. Within the next week, David Katz called a meeting the St. Lawrence Environmental Management Council to reply to the Impact Statement. They invited representatives from the Chapter to attend the meeting. Mark Martin brought a signed statement from the St. Lawrence County Mountain Bike association. J. Barron wrote a letter on behalf of the Chapter (appended to these minutes). T. Ortmeyer sent personal comments. J. Omohundro sent comments to the St. Lawrence Environmental Management Council. B. Madore raised concerns that there was no plan or funding for enforcement of the rules.

Survey of the Proposed New Portage Trail on Conservation Easement Lands at Sevey Corners

J. Barron and J. Omohundro reported on the Survey of the easement lands done by J. Omohundro, Armond Spencer and Bill Muller

The site is off a dirt road on RT56, south of the known portage trail to base of Moody Falls. There is a suitable parking spot for 4 cars, and a short 500 ft. trail to the river. It would not be difficult to clear the next 300 ft. along the river to the portage above Moody Falls. J. Barron reported to John Woods, that the Chapter is considering cleaning up the access trail and adding signs and possibly building a connecting trail to the portage trail. J. Wood said it would be ok to clear the trail from parking lot, but not OK to build a trail to the portage, since it is not in unit management plan.

J. Woods reported the Copper Rock proposed trail work is not ok, because a Unit Management Plan does not exist for that area.

J. Barron will contact J. Wood to get permission to improve the conservation easement trail for Sevey Corners. (An email report from A. Spencer to J. Barron is attached to these minutes).

E-Letter Terms of Reference / Non-ADK Trip Listings in All Media

D. Mooers raised the question of including non-chapter events in publicity (e.g. events such as Wear on Earth bike trips and Audubon Trips). He asked if there were guidelines, and how much discretion editors can use. It was agreed that minor editorial changes were up to the discretion of editor. The E-newsletter is designed for spur of the moment activities and announcements. Official Chapter outings have to be approved by the Vice Chair of Outings. It was agreed that publicity could include sponsored trips by other valid organizations, but not personal trips. J. Barron suggested the e-newsletter could include more Club action alerts.

Spring Outing 2013 –

T. Ortmeyer reported that Clarkson has comparable event pricing as SUNY Potsdam, but not as many resources. Christina Lassik at Clarkson is the events

contact. It was agreed that SUNY Potsdam would be the site for the Spring Outing in 2013.

J. Barron reported he contacted Mary Krueger from the ADK Outings Committee, They were delighted to hear from us. It was suggested the Spring Outing be scheduled for the 3rd week of June.

Round Table

Education Vice-Chair – B. Madore

No report

Publicity –T. Ortmeyer

T. Ortmeyer reported that so far he has received around 100 entries for the photo contest. He will need 3 judges, and is planning to contact last year's judges. B. Madore volunteered to serve as a judge. T. Ortmeyer reported he needs photo submissions to be at least 500 KB.

B. Madore suggested that photo contest entries could be used for an exhibit. He suggested that if photos entries were high resolution (e.g. 1.5 M can make a 20 x 24 entry) they could be mounted and exhibited and possibly sold to raise funds. It would cost \$60-\$80 per photo to print. It was questioned whether there would be issues with using entries from professional photographers for exhibition or sales. We may need a permission form.

Newsletter Editor - J. Omohundro

The newsletter deadline is the beginning of September.

E-letter Editor - D. Mooers

No report

Secretary – M Hebert

No report.

Treasurer – E. Menz

The treasurer's report is attached to these minutes. J. Barron reported the Chapter is holding it's own.

Chair - J. Barron

J. Barron reported that a recent contribution to the Chapter included several good books to give away to speakers. An invoice was sent to E. Menz by accident. It will show up as a donation.

Mark Simon reports that the flood damage at Stone valley has been cleaned up. The bog bridge needed to be winched back into position.

Educational Affiliate Program: Mark Simon is still willing to be the educational affiliate program representative. J. Barron will be the Mentor. Adam Wheeler is the advisor of the Outing club at SUNY Potsdam. J. Barron will be giving a pitch to the Outing Club in the near future.

Vice-Chair, Outings - B. Mueller

J. Barron reported for B. Mueller. Thirteen of of the twenty-four scheduled Spring events were held. Most were canceled due to inclement weather. Only two were canceled due to a lack of participants. Summer schedule has twenty-three outings planned (14 hikes, 7 paddles). (Vice Chair Outings Report is attached).

Proposed mountain bike trail at stone valley. B. Mueller went to scout out the proposed trail. He had good things to say about the trail. (His email to Mark Simon is attached to these minutes).

Meeting adjourned at 9:09pm

July 25, 2011

Mr. William Dashnaw
Superintendent of Highways
St. Lawrence County Department of Highways
44 Park Street
Canton, NY 13617

Dear Mr. Dashnaw –

I am writing on behalf of the Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) regarding the draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Proposed St. Lawrence County Multi-Use Recreational Trail System.

The Laurentian Chapter, which is based in St. Lawrence County, organizes all the ADK's activities in this region. Our mission mirrors that of the ADK as a whole: advocating for the preservation of wilderness; educating the public about the value of wilderness and how to conserve and enjoy it; and promoting the responsible recreational use of wild places by organizing and leading outdoor trips. The Laurentian Chapter has about 400 members, the vast majority of whom live in St. Lawrence County; about two dozen of them live in nearby areas of New York, other states, or Canada, and a few live farther away. The entire ADK has about 25,000 members in New York and other locations.

The ADK promotes self-propelled travel (e.g. hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, cycling, canoeing, and kayaking) as the best way to enjoy wild spaces while having a minimum impact on the countryside. The Laurentian Chapter organizes one or more outings in these activities almost every weekend throughout the year. The general public is welcome to participate. Chapter members also coordinate and perform the maintenance, on a volunteer basis, of the Red Sandstone and Stone Valley trails, as well as other trails in St. Lawrence County.

One of our members, Tom Ortmeyer, belongs to the St. Lawrence County Recreational Trails Advisory Council, and we have been following the evolution of the proposal for a recreational ATV touring trail with interest for a long time. In general we think the DGEIS has been well done and we agree that the specific trails identified on the maps in the annexes can be used for ATV touring with acceptable environmental impact, if properly used and maintained. We think these routes can support motorized traffic, and with care it may be possible for self-propelled users, such as cyclists and mountain

bikers, to share them successfully with motorized traffic. We hope that by establishing specific routes designated for motorized use there will be minimal need for motorized vehicles to use other backcountry routes where they can both cause more environmental damage and potentially interfere with the enjoyment and possibly the safety of self-propelled traffic.

We felt the tone of the DGEIS was too heavily slanted toward motorized vehicles. The report seems intended to justify the use of ATVs on all trails, and we hope that this will not prove to be the case. We hope a precedent will not be set that all trails and areas will be opened to motorized vehicles. We believe that any proposed additions should be treated on a case by case basis.

We feel we represent a large constituency of self-propelled users of wild areas. We ask that in any possible future expansion of the Multi-Use Recreational Trail System that the needs and desires of those who have the least impact on others be considered.

Sincerely,

John Barron
Chair, Laurentian Chapter
Adirondack Mountain Club
(613) 828-2296

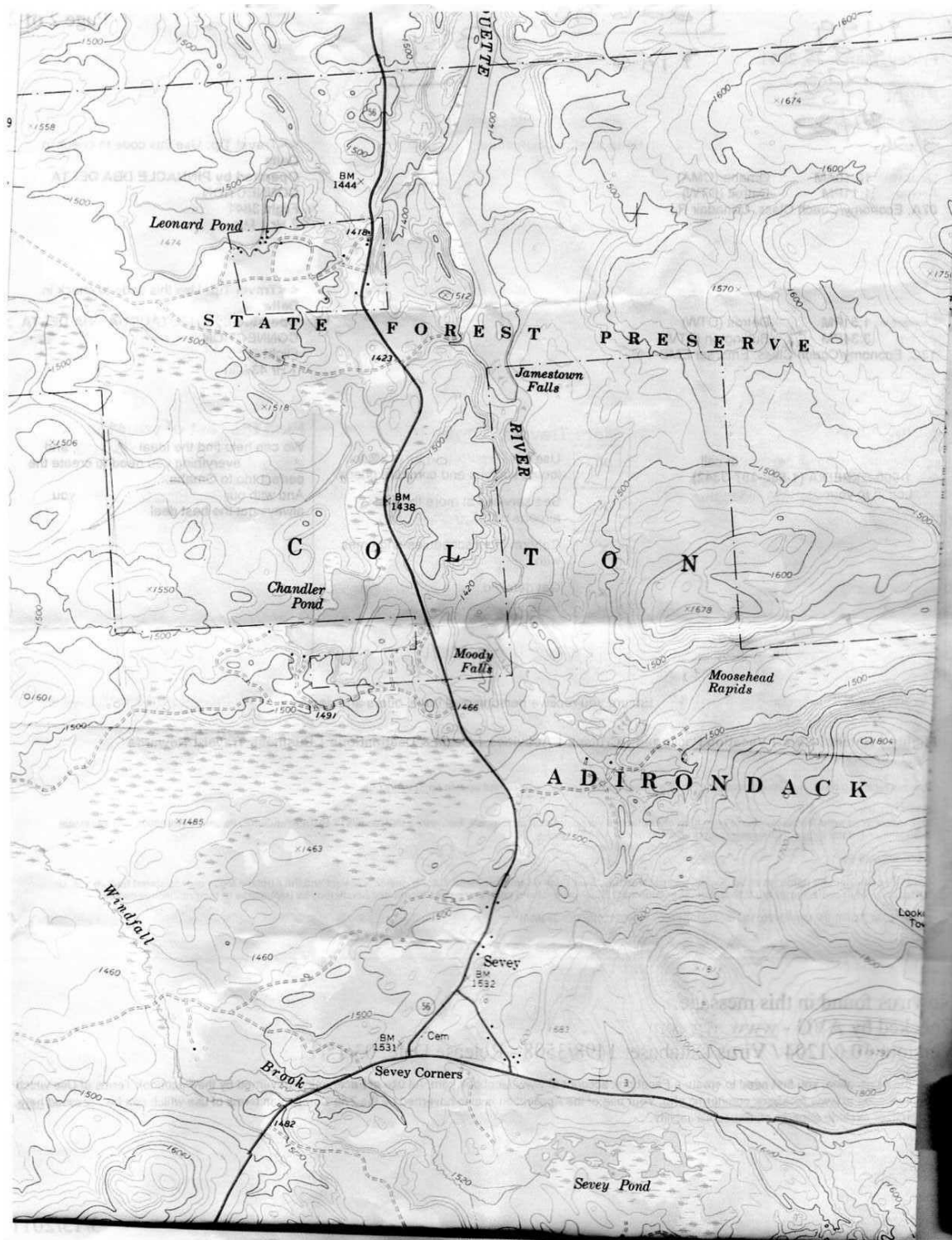
Sevey Corners Conservation Easement Trail Survey Report (Armond). Email from A. Spencer to J. Barron Thu, 23 Jun 2011:

Dear John, Thursday morning John Omohundro, Bill Mueller and I walked in on the Easement lands just North of Sevey's. The old road goes about 800 feet to a nice parking area. There were a couple of trees across the road, but they would be easy to remove. The road could use some gravel in a couple of low places. From the parking area it is about 500 feet to the river, 400 feet of which is on the old road. We reached the river just upstream from Moody falls. Just a little bit of trimming would make access to the river quite easy. The bank would be quite easy to launch from. So removing a couple of down trees, weed whacking the parking area and some of the old road, some gravel, and doing a bit of trimming would make this an easy place to get into.

We left there hiking along more of the old road which pretty soon became impossible to follow. We did hit some wet spots, but after a bit got onto an old trail from which there were nice views of Moody Falls. We continued on this trail till we got to the wide place in the river below Moody Falls where the trail from Route 56 comes in on state land to the river. The distance on Route 56 between the two entrances is about .3 or .4 miles. I'm not sure how much trail improvement is allowable on Easement lands, but with a modest amount of work (perhaps a couple of bog bridges) this could become a rather nice little hike to a very pretty place.

Of course from Moody Falls north one is on State Land. There is a very pretty red pine forest in the plateau not far from the river. I have hiked from the road that goes into the camping/picnic area just north of Jamestown falls to the Northern entrance to Moody Falls. Adding this would make quite a nice hike too. Again it would not take a lot of work to clear trail a through from Moody to Jamestown. Just something to think about.

Armond



10:19 AM
07/14/11
Cash Basis

Adirondack Mountain Club, Laurentian Chapter
Balance Sheet
As of July 14, 2011

	Jul 14, 11	Jul 14, 10
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
North Country Savings-Checking	1,213.86	1,637.84
SeaComm FCU CD 12/15/11 1.34%	3,085.59	3,064.02
SeaComm FCU-Regular Shares	5.00	5.00
Total Checking/Savings	4,304.45	4,706.86
Other Current Assets		
North Country Savings-Money Mkt	1,077.89	1,571.09
Total Other Current Assets	1,077.89	1,571.09
Total Current Assets	5,382.34	6,277.95
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>5,382.34</u>	<u>6,277.95</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Sales Tax Payable	2.24	12.76
Total Other Current Liabilities	2.24	12.76
Total Current Liabilities	2.24	12.76
Total Liabilities	2.24	12.76
Equity		
Fund Balance	5,298.55	6,300.80
Net Income	81.55	-35.61
Total Equity	5,380.10	6,265.19
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>5,382.34</u>	<u>6,277.95</u>

	Jan 1 - Jul 14, 11	Budget
Income		
Advertising Income	225.00	200.00
Interest Income	0.54	125.00
Membership Dues Received	1,917.40	3,500.00
Product Sales	31.91	250.00
Other Income	400.85	0.00
Total Income	2,575.70	4,075.00
Cost of Goods Sold		
Purchases for Resale	38.85	185.00
Total COGS	38.85	185.00
Gross Profit	2,536.85	3,890.00
Expense		
Reconciliation Discrepancies	0.00	0.00
ADK General Fund Contribution	0.00	500.00
Campership	700.00	650.00
Friends of Higley Donation	0.00	100.00
ADK H.S. Vol Trail Program	750.00	500.00
General Expense		
Business Cards	0.00	0.00
Cooperation with DEC	0.00	250.00
Publicity Flyers	0.00	50.00
Director	0.00	330.00
Website Maintenance	0.00	0.00
Prizes and Awards	0.00	160.00
Hospitality Committee	0.00	125.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
General Expense - Other	0.00	0.00
Total General Expense	0.00	915.00
Local Trail Maintenance		
Red Sandstone Maintenance	0.00	200.00
Stone Valley Maintenance	0.00	200.00
Local Trail Maintenance - Other	0.00	0.00
Total Local Trail Maintenance	0.00	400.00
Newsletter		
Newsletters & Brochures	321.27	580.00
Postage	450.00	780.00
Newsletter - Other	0.00	0.00
Total Newsletter	771.27	1,360.00
Offices		
Chair		

10:21 AM
07/14/11
Cash Basis

Adirondack Mountain Club, Laurentian Chapter
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
January 1 through July 14, 2011

	Jan 1 - Jul 14, 11	Budget
Programs		
Outdoor-Indoor Programs	20.00	55.00
Potlucks	214.03	400.00
Programs - Other	0.00	0.00
Total Programs	234.03	455.00
Total Expense	2,455.30	5,220.00
Net Income	81.55	-1,330.00

Outings vice-chair Report, July 14, 2011
Bill Mueller

Summer Outings-July-September

Thanks to a great response from members, we have a full and varied schedule of outings for July-September 2011. There are 23 outings, 14 hikes (4 in the high peaks and another very strenuous and intriguing hike in search of the tri-county marker in the Five-Ponds Wilderness), 7 paddles, and 2 biking events. Among these, are a 'New Hikers' event (9/3), a paddle safety event ('Swim with your kayak'-8/6), and two events that are a part of Raquette River Awareness Week- Cycling along the Raquette River (7/30), and A Sandstone Quarry Historical walking tour (8/6).

Spring Outings-April-June

Of 24 scheduled outdoor events, 13 actually took place, a 'success rate' of 54%. Most of the cancellations were due to weather (n=8, accounting for 73% of 'failures'). We had a very rainy Spring, with some of the trip descriptions reporting very high levels of water and submerged trails. One trip was re-scheduled and I lost track of that one (Blue Mt., May 22). There were only 2 cancellations due to lack of interest with weather not a feature of the problem; these were 'Algonquin and Wright Peaks' (4/3) and wilderness navigation clinic (4/16). In the Spring we had two events scheduled in neighbor Canada. One of these was rained out (Frontenac Park hike-4/16) but the other went forward, a daring paddle/hike to Blue Mt. in Leeds Co., Ontario-6/26.

Can you tell, I used to be in PUBLIC HEALTH?

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Mueller,
Outings

Email from Bill Mueller to Mark Simon Mon, 11 Jul 2011

Mark, I started a walk of the flagged Mountain Bike trail last Friday about 11AM. I didn't finish however, because I got twisted around with all the ups and downs and turns, and at one point I had to admit (after about 2 hours) I was headed back to where I started. It being quite warm, and my 70-year old energy somewhat ebbed, I decided I shouldn't risk trying it over. So, I bushwacked down to the river and took the Stone Valley trail north to the site where my wife and I had earlier parked my

vehicle. I came out on the river near what is marked on the map as 'Lucy's hole' or 'the gut', to give you some idea. I probably walked a third of the new trail from the position of that landmark.

What I saw of the proposed trail, impressed me. I especially like the use of a part of the land that is nowhere near the walking trail, yet in its own right is a beautiful and varied forest land with lots of terrain changes to challenge the mountain biker. Where I got turned around, I was in a hardwood forest, having come through some pine woods earlier, in which there were fine specimens of mature hardwoods, especially beech. Not being a mountain biker myself, I think I was not prepared for the eternal twists and turns that such a trail takes. I understand this is to be an 'intermediate level' trail; perhaps I got that wrong. It is definitely a tough ride, not for the faint-hearted or those much over 40 years of age.

I reached the northern trailhead at about 2:30 PM. There I looked for signs of the red flagging going back south but could see none. This trail does end at the northern trailhead, does it not? I am willing to try it again but not alone, perhaps with someone who knows more about mountain biking than I do and can help spot the markings. At one point I came out on the penstock and could not find a marker which led me back into the forest; so I walked down some distance following the penstock until there was a former road that led down into the forest. Then I was able to pick up the flagging once more.

I don't know what your deadline is. My wife and I are leaving soon for about two weeks, so I would be able to attempt it again until early or mid-august.

All the best,

Bill