

**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB – LAURENTIAN CHAPTER  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 9, 2017  
VERSION 1 DATED MARCH 8, 2017**

Officers Attending: Tom Ortmeier (Director), Tom Wheeler (Chair), Marianne Hebert (Outings), Jeanna Matthews (Education), Marie Fernandez de Alaiza (Treasurer), David Katz (Conservation)

Appointed Positions Attending: John Barron, David Katz (as Webmaster)

Announcements (Tom Wheeler)

Tom indicated that Karynn von Cramon has resigned as secretary for a number of reasons.

A consensus was reached to appoint John Barron to serve out the remainder of Karynn's term as Acting Secretary.

The Spring pot luck is scheduled for April 23 at Potsdam Presbyterian Church. The hall is booked. The guest speaker will be Art Boni, presenting about hiking in the Canadian Rockies.

Minutes (John Barron)

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2016 meeting. Carried unanimously.

Treasurer (Marie Fernandez de Alaiza)

December's deposit is delayed. The checking account is down to \$600.

Quick Books accounting software has not been purchased yet. Marie questions the need, given the small volume of transactions in the chapter (about fifty per year). Marie believes she can generate the same statements from Excel. In addition, Excel gives analytical capability. The only downside is that it wouldn't be possible to import the 2015 results which are in Quick Books format. Tom Wheeler does have 2015 actuals.

A consensus was reached to go with Excel.

There was discussion of the financial statement. \$600 in checking, \$1091 at North Country Savings, \$3273 at Seacomm.

RRAC reimbursement for the shed is anticipated.

The post office rate has gone up slightly.

Director (Tom Ortmeyer)

The board will be asked to vote on a position on a Constitutional Convention - i.e., the Forever Wild clause. Tom leans toward having the Club oppose the Convention. Input from chapter members is welcome.

A policy change is being considered in respect of extended outings (i.e., Adventure Travel). The feeling is they should have a built-in overhead and hence be profitable to the Club.

Observation from Tom Wheeler: Why would anyone lead trips if he is going to be on the hook for any shortfalls? Note: as it is now, the leader's expenses are paid by the trip.

The committee members considering this change are unhappy with the proposal, to varying degrees. Micheline Kagan chairs the committee. Lalita Malik was spokesperson for it.

The Laurentian Chapter cycling guidebook is close to completion.

The next board meeting is in March.

Conservation (David Katz)

There was an E-Mail message from the chair of Mid-Hudson Chapter regarding the front page North Wind article about Boreas Ponds.

Richard Grover of Algonquin to Adirondacks (A to A) group wants to discuss whether the chapter would consider becoming a partnering organization. They may be willing to make a presentation at a pot luck. A to A is proposing a foot trail on the Canadian side of the corridor. Tom Wheeler favors finding out what is expected.

There are various conservation-oriented groups around the region. David recently attended a meeting of the Environmental Management Council. A "State of the Environment" meeting could conceivably be convened. There's North Country Symposium, an SLU alumni-endowed group which meets annually to discuss development goals for the county.

David met with John Omohundro and several DEC people including Peter D'luhosch. DEC is mandated to have a motorized access trail on each side of the Tooley Pond Road. In David's opinion they have achieved this in the least environmentally destructive way possible.

News today from the DEC: a UMP for Debar Mountain Wild Forest is getting started.

David asked if there are Canadian environmental conservation issues that the chapter could constructively contribute to. There were no immediate answers. Tom Wheeler suggests maybe wind turbines.

David asked if there is expected interaction between the chapter and the Club on environmental issues. The answer is not obvious. Tom Ortmeyer will look into it.

Note from Tom Wheeler: in the 1960's Rockefeller proposed an Adirondack National Park. The ADK opposed the idea because constitutional protection within New York is stronger.

#### Outings (Marianne Hebert)

We've had good luck with the weather. There has been good cooperation with other chapters, notably NP Trail and Black River (also North Woods - secretarial)

The call for outings for the spring season will go out in late February approximately.

#### Education (Jeanna Matthews)

There was a good turnout for the first Outdoors/Indoors talk (Danielle's). Tom O observes there was good publicity. Coming up are Ecuador on Feb 26 and then a prof from SUNY Potsdam. The Adirondack Semester presentation will be in May.

Camp Scholarships: Contacted Guidance Counselors one more time and did a press release. Two applications from one school. One is registered, the other is on the waiting list.

Last year one student actually went to camp, while our other candidate left the region without enough notice to obtain a refund. Jeanna wonders if the program is effective enough.

Volunteer Trails: Last year there were two slots available. One applicant actually went. Funding for the other was donated anyway.

There was discussion of the Wild Center, whose admission cost is high for some people. Perhaps a group rate could be obtained by taking a public trip down there.

There was no decision whether to continue to sponsor Camp Colby and Volunteer Trails or to do something else. Thought is going on.

It is proposed to split the present Education workload in two, by splitting Outdoors/Indoors off the sponsorships. The idea was favorably received.

There is a potential presentation available - Algonquin to Adirondacks.

Membership (Tom Wheeler presenting on behalf of Randy Saumier)

Total membership 403.

Letters were sent to Kiwanis to promote the chapter.

Educational Affiliate Program (John Barron and Marianne Hebert)

The first two trips on the winter schedule went ahead with good turnouts. One had a spin-out on the highway but there was no damage or injuries. Good trip reports are being submitted.

Web Site (David Katz)

Q from David: How do chapter members indicate change of postal or E-Mail address? A: By so indicating to ADK HQ in Lake George, which maintains membership list.

**New Business**

Attendance at Committee Meetings

Nominally open to all members. In practice - contact chair Tom Wheeler to confirm.

Budget

Can't be handled this evening. More input is needed. Deferred until next meeting.

Last year's budget was circulated for information.

Tom O volunteered to contact John Omohundro regarding RRAC reimbursements.

Looking Ahead

Tom Wheeler would like to go over some membership initiatives. Deferred until Randy can be here.

Closing Remarks

Tom Wheeler will be away from March 29 to April 15.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7 PM on March 16 at Tom Wheeler's.

There seemed to be support for holding a summer meeting in Ottawa.