

**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB – LAURENTIAN CHAPTER
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MAY 23, 2017**

Officers Attending: Tom Wheeler (Chair), David Katz (Conservation), Marie Fernandez de Alaiza (Treasurer), Tom Ortmeyer (Director), Marianne Hebert (Outings), Randy Saumier (Membership), John Barron (A/Secretary)

Appointive Positions Attending: John Barron (as Publicity and EAP), David Katz (as Webmaster), Marianne Hebert (as Social Media), Blair Madore (Coordinator, Red Sandstone Trail)

Regrets: Jeanna Matthews (Education)

Minutes (John Barron)

The minutes of the February 9 meeting and March 16 meetings were approved by consensus

Treasurer (Marie Fernandez de Alaiza)

Financial report was circulated.

North Country Savings account \$517.80
North Country Money Market account @1091.54
Seacomm \$3276.60
Total \$4885.94

Haven't yet received April's payment from the Club.

Director (Tom Ortmeyer)

The trail guidebook *Western Trails* is now available for purchase.

The E-Publication *Cycling Routes of the St. Lawrence River Valley and Northern Adirondacks* is also now available for purchase on-line from ADK.

Operating revenue is \$828,000. Last year, \$856,000. Budget for this year \$937,000.

Donations are way down. Membership dues is below expectations. Expenses are higher than expected. An interim budget is being considered.

Catherine Forbes has resigned and a search for a successor is on.

Wes Lampman has been named to succeed John Million.

Two possible ways to increase net revenue are being considered: increasing dues and reducing the percentage of dues that goes to the Chapters. Either would be a big step and is not expected to happen soon or without a lot of thought.

Conservation (David Katz)

David and John Omohundro have met to discuss the Debar Mountain Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP). Not aware of any other issues pending.

Education (Jeanna Matthews)

Deferred until next meeting.

Outings (Marianne Hebert)

There was an accident on one of the outings - Tom Wheeler's trip to Indian Creek Nature Center. Near a viewing platform Tom himself slipped and fell, breaking a rib and bruising an elbow. It is healing well.

Marianne's outing was cancelled on account of rain.

Marie Steinbeck of Black River Chapter is planning a joint trip with Laurentian.

Membership (Randy Saumier)

Total membership is 392, and going down. Had been 409.

Looking for ways to increase interest. Randy has been sending very informative welcome letters to new people joining. He has not been sending anything to those lapsing.

Randy suspects there isn't good public awareness of the many types of activities that occur in the chapter, like Outdoors/Indoors presentations.

David Katz suggested Mail Chimp as a useful broadcast E-Mail tool. One of its attractive features is that addressees who do not want the correspondence can unsubscribe easily.

Educational Affiliate Program (EAP) (John Barron, Marianne Hebert)

Planning is underway for next fall's schedule. The draft looks very promising. One concern is leader qualifications. Some students offering to lead may not hold all the required qualifications including having successfully completed the leadership workshop.

Social Media (Marianne Hebert)

136 Facebook friends.

Web Site (David Katz)

We should update and expand the hike destinations page. There are lots of specialized routes that aren't reflected on the site yet, including for example handicapped-accessible trails at Indian Creek Nature Center/Upper and Lower Lakes and at Wilson Hill.

Blair Madore offered to look over and vet the trail material.

Red Sandstone Trail (Blair Madore)

John Omohundro has handed over responsibility for the Red Sandstone Trail to Blair.

Blair makes regular trail sweeps and also receives reports from hikers/walkers.

There was a trail maintenance day in the fall. A Wilderness Education group repaired a number of bog bridges on Sugar Island. Another Wilderness Ed group did major work in The Gulch.

A registration log book box got flooded. Blair brought the whole thing indoors to dry out. He succeeded in recovering and drying out the log book. He then keyed in all the data from the log book and began analyzing it. Blair wondered what percentage of trail users sign the log book.

The log book could be given to Carolyn Kaczka as chapter Archivist, or it could be given to Brookfield Renewable Power. No decision yet.

New Business

Nominating Committee

Tom Wheeler will establish.

RRAC Succession

Blair is currently on the Advisory Committee for the West Branch of the St. Regis River. In the medium to longer term he is thinking of resigning from that committee to follow John Omohundro onto the Raquette River Advisory Committee (RRAC).

Summer Barbecue

Blair thinks a summer barbecue would be a good way to interest new people in becoming chapter members. There are a number of new faculty members who might be interested. Blair has undertaken to run such an event at his home on Sept 17. It will be pot luck salads and desserts. Blair will provide burgers.

Bylaws Committee

No progress to report. Committee members are reminded of it.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 6 PM August 2 at John Barron's residence, 23 Leeming Drive, Ottawa.