

**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB – LAURENTIAN CHAPTER  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 2, 2017**

Officers Attending: Tom Wheeler (Chair), Marie Fernandez de Alaiza (Treasurer), Marianne Hebert (Outings), Randy Saumier (Membership), John Barron (Secretary and Alternate Director), Jeanna Matthews (Education)

Appointive Positions Attending: John Barron (as Publicity and EAP), Marianne Hebert (as Social Media)

Regrets: David Katz (Conservation and Webmaster, Tom Ortmeyer (Director)

Meeting location was John Barron's residence, 23 Leeming Drive, Ottawa, Ontario.

Minutes (John Barron)

Moved by Randy, seconded by Marie, to accept the minutes of the May 23 meeting. In favor all. Opposed nil. Carried.

Announcements (Tom Wheeler)

Ann and Armond Spencer have completed purchase of a new house in Rochester. John and Susan Omohundro have moved into a new house on Lake Flower in Saranac Lake.

Treasurer (Marie Fernandez de Alaiza)

Financial report was circulated.

North Country Savings account \$995.61  
North Country Money Market account @1091.95  
Seacomm \$3276.60  
Total \$5364.16

Income to Date \$1,932.98  
Expenses to Date \$1,828.61

About \$800 is expected from RRAC, but no sign of it yet.

Web site expense of \$214 is for past expenses, not prepayment of future expenses.

Director (John Barron as Alternate Director on behalf of Tom Ortmeyer)

John Barron attended the June 24 ADK board meeting on behalf of Tom Ortmeyer. Report is attached.

Conservation (David Katz)

David couldn't attend the meeting. His report is attached.

### Education (Jeanna Matthews)

Jeanna advertised for applicants for Camp Colby and Teen Trails.

Camp Colby: two applied, one boy and one girl from the same school district. The girl registered, paid, and may have attended. The boy was put on the waiting list. Not sure if he went or not.

Teen Trails: Last year two registered; one attended, one cancelled. We donated the budget for the second to ADK Trail Maintenance. This year, no one has applied for Teen Trails.

No response at all from newspaper publicity promoting the programs. Jeanna is wondering if a more effective way can be found to support education.

Possibilities: support Boy's and Girl's' Club of Massena, which has requested support in the past (per Marianne). Sponsor school group trips, e.g. to the Wild Center. Advertise in the North Wind and ask chapter members for suggestions.

Jeanna recommends defining our target audience for educational grants. Local kids? Less well-off kids? School districts?

The problem is reaching the audience. Newspapers have been a complete disappointment. Guidance Counselors have been the most successful channel, but are not ideal either.

Jeanna offered to contact the Wild Center and Robert Moses State Park Nature Center to see if there's anything they'd like to do that's within our means to support.

There was general support for going somewhat over the current education budget, to enable trying new possibilities. The large costs in the budget for supporting Teen Trails and Camp Colby may not actually be spent, and if they are we can re-evaluate priorities next year.

Danielle Jerry and Bob Platte are organizing the Outdoors/Indoors series.

Jeanna will be on sabbatical next year but will try to stay in contact with chapter activities.

### Outings (Marianne Hebert)

12 outings on the current schedule. So far all have gone ahead as planned.

24 August is the next call for outings.

Membership (Randy Saumier)

Membership is up from 392 to 399. Randy is trying to create ideas for growth. We're continuing to contact new members.

Educational Affiliate Program (John Barron)

It/s midsummer and school is out. Nothing to report.

Social Media (Marianne Hebert)

143 Facebook friends, up from 136.

New Business

Bylaws Committee (John Barron, for himself, David Katz, and Tom Ortmeier)

A draft of the proposed new bylaws is out for comments.

It was suggested that the bylaws state that the list of appointive positions and duties is provided for descriptive purposes only.

Improved wording was proposed to clarify that a person may hold only one elected executive committee position at one time except for Alternate Director who may hold another elected position simultaneously.

It was suggested that our chapter bylaws could be compared to those of other chapters.

It was recommended to delete Robert's Rules of Order as too complex.

The committee will endeavor to have the new bylaws endorsed by the executive committee more than four weeks before the Fall meeting.

Report is attached.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 7 PM Tuesday September 26 at Randy Saumier's residence in Massena.

**Conservation Report**, 2017-08-02

Last week I attended the DEC's open house at the Potsdam High School about the St Lawrence Foothills Unit Management Plan. Quite a few people spoke about the plan, and almost all of them commented not so much about the plan but about the proposed wind energy project and its likely effects on the two adjacent state forests that are part of the UMP. Among the concerns expressed were fragmentation of forests and other wild lands, damage to wetlands, damage to ground water, disturbance of wildlife, damage to headwaters of streams that pass through state forests, inadequate setbacks from state forest boundaries, widening of roads, and the effects of increased traffic. I plan to send in a few comments about the UMP by the August 25 deadline, and I invite your thoughts about the UMP. While this wind energy project does not appear to me to be a good idea, I don't plan to comment on it on behalf of the Chapter.

State Assemblywoman Addie Jenne has been working on a bill to overhaul the state's treatment of ATVs and UTVs. Bill #A1429C would affect environmental conservation law as well as vehicle & traffic law and finance law. The summary appears below. I have not thought about the bill in any detail yet, but if commenting seems useful, I will send comments to her. I invite your thoughts about the bill.

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NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY  
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION  
submitted in accordance with Assembly Rule III, Sec 1(f)

BILL NUMBER: A1429C

SPONSOR: Jenne

TITLE OF BILL: An act to amend the environmental conservation law and the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to the definition and use of all terrain vehicles; to amend the state finance law, in relation to establishing the all terrain vehicle trail development and maintenance fund and the ATV environmental restoration fund; and to amend the tax law and the state finance law, in relation to establishing tax credits for landowners who allow all terrain vehicle access

PURPOSE:

To protect ecologically valuable land while expanding recreational access across New York State for all terrain vehicle riders.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Section One amends the environmental conservation law by defining all terrain vehicles to include self-propelled, off-road vehicles that are no more than 70 inches wide and no more than 1,500 pounds.

Section Two amends the environmental conservation law to add clean air standards to ATVs. The DEC shall be required to annually review the air emission standards for ATVs as adopted by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board. The stricter standard shall be adopted for the next ATV model year.

Section Three amends the vehicle and traffic law by defining all terrain vehicles to include self-propelled, off-road vehicles that are no more than 70 inches wide and no more than 1,500 pounds.

Section Four amends the environmental conservation law so that all terrain vehicles operated in violation of the law can be impounded, with a \$100 surcharge to be paid by the owner.

Section Five adds a new section to the state finance law to create the ATV trail development and maintenance fund. This fund shall be available to pay any and all costs and expenditures incurred in performing any of the work required in developing and maintaining a system of all terrain vehicle trails.

Section Six adds a new section to the state finance law to create an ATV environmental restoration fund. This fund shall be available for the payment of any and all costs and expenditures for the repair of any environmental damage caused by all terrain vehicles.

Section Seven adds a new section to the vehicle and traffic law to give guidance to the commissioner on how to distribute funding for the create of all terrain vehicle trail systems.

Section Eight adds a new section to the vehicle and traffic law to create a fee for ATV trail development and maintenance.

Section Nine adds a new section to the vehicle and traffic law to lay out how money received from certain penalties and fines are credited to the AN environmental restoration fund.

Section Ten amends the vehicle and traffic law so that all terrain vehicle riders who trespass may have their safety certificate and registration suspended in addition to being charged with a misdemeanor.

Section Eleven amends the vehicle and traffic law so that any AN operator utilizing a highway must be in possession of a valid driver's license.

Section Twelve amends the vehicle and traffic law to include fines and penalties for driving ATVs while impaired by drugs or alcohol.

Section Thirteen amends the tax law so that certain landowners are eligible for a tax credit equal to \$0.10 per linear foot of state-funded all terrain vehicle trail on property that either receives an agricultural assessment under section 305 or 306 of the agriculture and markets law or is eligible forest land under section 480a of the real property tax law.

Section Fourteen amends the state finance law to make monies available from the open space account for the tax credit in Section Thirteen.

Section Fifteen says that this act will not limit the authority of any county, city, town or village as well as amend any local laws, as long as local laws are consistent with the authority to protect welfare of persons or property.

Section Sixteen is the effective date.

#### JUSTIFICATION:

With all terrain vehicles already in use by many New York State farmers, hunters, tourists, and recreational riders, expanding access while protecting the state's environment will provide new opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and tourism. The legislation would enable Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs) to be registered in New York and includes various environmental protections to ensure the state's interest in preserving its diverse ecology is maintained.

**Bylaws Review Committee Report - July 27, 2017**

The bylaws review committee consists of John Barron (chair), David Katz, and Tom Ortmeier. We've reviewed the 2010 bylaws, considered possible revisions, and met on July 26 to decide what to incorporate. Here is a summary.

- Membership requirements to be on the executive committee - unchanged. Chapter membership required.
- Quorum requirements at executive committee meetings - unchanged. A majority of executive committee members is required, i.e. five out of eight.
- Quorum requirements at the annual chapter meeting - unchanged. 10% of voting members.
- Appointive positions: have added text clarifying that the executive committee can add or delete them any time without a change in the bylaws. Considered deleting all appointive position descriptions from the bylaws as unnecessary, but decided that the descriptions are useful and left them in place as a current status in 2017. Added two positions - EAP Coordinator and Social Media Coordinator.
- Effect of Club bylaws on chapter bylaws: researched. No action required.
- Objectives: Reconfirmed the broad objectives applicable to any chapter. Added broad specific objectives applicable to our own chapter. Added our chapter geographic area.
- Committees: Reviewed and confirmed the bylaws concerning functional committees.
- E-Mail Voting: Under "Quorum and Majority", added a statement that E-Mail voting is allowed and set guidelines for conducting it.
- Holding More than One Executive Office Simultaneously: Clarified the wording that this is not allowed except for the Alternate Director who may hold another executive committee office.

We are planning to put a summary of status and proposed changes in the Fall issue of the North Wind which will appear about six weeks before the annual meeting in November. We will post the proposed new bylaws on the web site for information, also about six weeks ahead of the meeting.

**Alternate Director Report - July 27, 2017**

Tom Ortmeyer couldn't attend the ADK board meeting on June 24, 2017, so I represented the chapter. Highlights:

- Wes Lampman now Chief Operating Officer of ADK.
- Nominating Committee has developed a slate of candidates (I couldn't catch the names).
- The ADK Outings Policy has been revised to make it mandatory to wear a pfd on paddling outings.
- Chapter Notes are still available. These allow chapters to lend money to the Club at a favorable interest rate, benefiting both Club and chapter. They used to have a major effect on Club cash flow but less so now and they're being used less.
- Superficially the Club's April financial results looked alarmingly poor. However May's results have confirmed that a change from cash to accrual accounting is most of the reason. Multi-year membership dues are now being recognized as revenue later, even though the cash is received. Unlikely to cut staff for financial reasons.
- Development Director Catherine Forbes is leaving. Staffing action underway to fund a successor. Several good candidates have been identified.
- Heart Lake Program Center. Phase 1 cost more than expected but was very worthwhile because of State grant covering 75% of cost. An RFP was issued for Phase 2. Bids have been received. Best choice looks like a cost of about \$363,000; there is uncertainty because final contract negotiation still not complete. ADK could fund this from the investment accounts, but it was recommended instead to fund it with a mortgage loan. After debate the board authorized (not sure whom; executive director and executive committee and finance committee I think) to take out a mortgage loan of up to \$400,000 secured by the ADK properties in Lake George.
- Executive Director report: decision awaited on Boreas Ponds. Stopped ATV bill that would have opened 1.5 million acres of State land to them,