

**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB – LAURENTIAN CHAPTER  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

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

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

Regrets: David Katz (Conservation and Webmaster; Jeanna Matthews (Education)

Meeting location was Randy Saumier's residence, 376 County Route 41 in Massena.

Minutes (John Barron)

Moved by Marie, seconded by Randy, to accept the minutes of the August 2 meeting. In favor all. Opposed nil. Carried.

Treasurer (Marie Fernandez de Alaiza)

Marie circulated the financial status report.

Payment has been received from RRAC. Very good balance on hand.

New reporting format gives previous year's status beside this year's for comparison.

It was moved by Marianne, seconded by Marie, to reimburse Alternate Director for attending a meeting in Lake George on June 24. Amount to conform to standard rates. In favor all. Opposed nil. Carried.

Director (Tom Ortmeyer)

The Club's on-line auction is coming up soon.

The Outings Committee has approved Cycling Outing in Potsdam in June, 2018.

Binghamton Chapter has volunteered to co-sponsor Fall Outing 2018, and is looking for a partnering chapter.

The Club's biggest concern is financial. We are running behind budget on revenue and ahead of budget on expenses. The work at Heart Lake took longer than expected. Donations are up a bit. Education is up. Lodging and food are down slightly. They are trying to bring expenses down.

Chief Operating Officer has been retitled Chief Financial Officer.

Catherine Forbes's successor starts Monday.

A Leave No Trace activity was held at Peekamoose Blue Hole.

There have been a large number of rescues this year, and it is wearing down the DEC.

Membership (Randy Saumier)

397 total membership in August.

Stephanie Gaudons at ADK Headquarters is assembling a "Best Practices" guide for attracting and retaining members.

In discussion it was noted that we may have some people taking active part in Laurentian Chapter activities but who are not on our member list. This can be because joining or renewing may be falling through the cracks. There is also a possibility that some may be ADK members but not Laurentian Chapter members, either intentionally or because selection of chapter or Member At Large did not occur correctly. It may be worth a search.

Conservation (David Katz)

David couldn't attend the meeting. Here is his report:

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 marketslaw 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.

### Five Mile Easement Extension

Tom Ortmeyer reported that there is a desire to extend the Five Mile Easement Road in White Hills Wild Forest south of Parishville a mile or so farther to where there is better access to the Raquette Boreal Wild Forest. Q: Will it happen? A: It is under study. It appears to be non-controversial.

### Outings (Marianne Hebert)

There are eleven outings on the present (summer) schedule. Seven ran successfully. One is yet to come. There are ten scheduled for the fall.

It's a struggle to get people to commit to leading an outing. There are often a number of submissions at the very last minute.

Options were considered for how to run the New Year's Day pot luck in 2018. Tom Wheeler's new neighbors' residence was suggested, as was Higley. There is also the Adirondack Lodge at Clarkson. Choice to be determined.

### Educational Affiliate Program (John Barron)

A start-of-year meeting was held at Fireside Lounge, SUNY Potsdam, on September 6. We had Adam Wheeler and Mark Simon of Wilderness Education; Bill Brown, faculty advisor to campus outdoor programs; Maureen Taylor of Venture Outdoors/Student Government Association and our Educational Affiliate Representative; Marianne Hebert; me; and by my count more than twenty students in attendance.

13 signed the attendance sheet.

10 indicated interest in going on the November 11 EAP leadership workshop.

12 completed EAP membership applications

4 indicated interest in College Weekend at the Loj on October 13-15.

We have a fall program featuring eight ADK/EAP-sponsored events: 3 hikes, 2 Yoga-on-the-Mountain events, the leadership clinic, the trail maintenance blitz, and College Weekend.

One (two?) student is registered for College Weekend. It is entitled "Collegiate Outdoor Leadership Summit".

We're still working on the membership list and on recruiting more student members. In addition to the 12 who submitted membership applications at the meeting we anticipate at least four more from last year will continue. We think we'll have the largest EAP membership to date.

### Education (Jeanna Matthews)

Jeanna couldn't attend the meeting. No report.

### Social Media (Marianne Hebert)

147 Facebook followers, up from 143.

### **New Business**

#### Bylaws Review

John Brron and Tom Ortmeyer gave a briefing on the development of the revised bylaws. A draft is up on the web site for review by the general membership, leading up to an approval vote scheduled for the annual meeting in November.

It was moved by Marianne, seconded by Randy, that the executive committee endorse the draft revised bylaws. In favor all. Opposed nil. Carried.

#### North Wind

David Trithart is finding it a burden to produce the North Wind - especially the mechanical parts of distributing it including folding and labelling prior to mailing. We should try to think of ideas to improve the situation, among ourselves and in conjunction with David. For discussion at next meeting.

#### Education

It is noted that soliciting students through guidance counsellors to attend Camp Colby and Volunteer Trails is not working well. Other options could be considered, such as advertising in the North Wind an offer to sponsor a student upon application. For discussion at next meeting.

#### Adjournment

It was moved by Marianne, seconded by Randy, to adjourn the meeting. Carried by consensus.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday November 2, at Marianne Hebert's residence, 9 Spring Street, Potsdam.