

**ADIRONDACK MOUNTAIN CLUB – LAURENTIAN CHAPTER  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 12, 2017**

Chair Tom Wheeler called the meeting to order at about 7 PM. Tom introduced members of the executive committee, both elected and appointed officers.

Bylaws Update

The bylaws under which the chapter operates require that the bylaws themselves be reviewed and updated periodically, approximately every five years. The review is due, and a committee consisting of David Katz, Tom Ortmeier, and John Barron as chair conducted the review. John presented the results.

The current bylaws were considered to be still very effective. Several aspects were considered carefully and recommended to stay the same, notably the definition of quorum for meetings, the rules for holding office, and the list of elected offices.

A couple of new appointive positions have been created since the last review. Instead of updating what is really a dynamic list, it was recommended to delete all detailed descriptions of the appointive positions from the bylaws.

It was recommended to allow E-Mail votes explicitly in the bylaws, and to provide guidelines for conducting them.

It was recommended to delete Robert's Rules of Order as a framework for running meetings in favor of a consensus-based informal approach.

The new draft bylaws were endorsed by the Executive Committee at the November 2 meeting, and were up on the web site for general review for a number of weeks. No comments were received by the committee during the review period.

John requested a motion to approve the new draft bylaws. It was moved by Randy Saumier, seconded by Art Boni, to approve the bylaws. John asked if there was any further discussion.

There was lively discussion regarding Robert's Rules of Order. A number of people considered that it is the universal standard for running meetings, especially when the subject matter becomes contentious, and thought it should be retained. Others agreed it should be deleted.

It was moved by Gene Kaczka, seconded by Carolyn Kaczka to amend the motion to reinstate Robert's Rules of Order.

Discussion: The Rules is complex and in reality few if any in the chapter really understand how to apply it. Also there has been experience elsewhere where someone

goes to effort to learn some or all aspects of the Rules and then uses that knowledge as a weapon to hijack meetings.

In favor of the amendment 6. Opposed to the amendment 8. The amendment motion did not carry.

In favor of the motion all. Opposed to the motion nil. The motion to approve the new draft bylaws carried.

### Nominating Committee

The nominating committee consisted of Randy Saumier (chair), Ken Hobb, and Tom Wheeler. Randy submitted the following nominations:

Chair - John Barron (1st term)  
Director - Tom Ortmeyer (3rd term)  
Vice Chair, Education - Jeanna Matthews (2nd term)  
Secretary - Blair Madore (1st term)  
Alternate Director - John Barron

It was moved by Eileen Wheeler, seconded by Marianne Hebert, to elect the slate. The motion carried unanimously.

### Photo Contest

Contest organizer Tom Ortmeyer thanked Eileen Wheeler for helping judge last year's contest and Dick Mooers who has helped judge the contest for many years. Tom identified the judges of the present contest: Geri Ames, Fiona Barron, and Art Boni who is here this evening and assisted in presenting the awards.

**Grand Prize:** Camp Santanoni

Bob Platte

#### **Landscape**

1st Place: Hard Frost and Soft Autumn  
Honorable Mention: Stark Falls  
Honorable Mention: Puddle Above, Lake Below

Jeanna Matthews  
Alison Charles  
Jeanna Matthews

#### **Nature**

1st Place: Black Swallowtail Butterflies  
Honorable Mention: Great Gray Encounter  
Honorable Mention: Sitting Pretty

Bob Platte  
Eileen Wheeler  
Eileen Wheeler

#### **Action**

1st Place: Trail Work Day- Trail Restoration  
Honorable Mention: Trail Work Day- Dam Building

John Barron  
John Barron

**Artistic**

1st Place: Adirondack Balloon Festival Lights Up the Night	Jeanna Matthews
Honorable Mention: Succulents on Green Roof at SUNY Stony Brook	Marianne Hebert
Honorable Mention: Snowman at Rainbow Falls	Blair Madore

**People**

1st Place: Kingston Ontario Paddle	John Barron
Honorable Mention: Looking Out on Low's Bog	Eileen Wheeler
Honorable Mention: Lunch Break on Baxter Mountain	Marianne Hebert

**Portrait**

1st Place: Andrea and Vincent on Baxter Mountain	Marianne Hebert
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Tom Wheeler declared the meeting adjourned.

Presentation - Algonquin to Adirondacks Collaborative

Tom Wheeler and John Barron introduced the evening's guest speaker, Richard Grover, who gave an informative presentation about the Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) Collaborative, highlighting the newly developed A2A Trail. Richard Grover was assisted by Richard Hayes Phillips, who played a major role in defining and developing the trail and as a singer songwriter performed original music for the occasion.