

ADK Laurentian Chapter Executive Committee Meeting May 22, 2018

Meeting Location: The residence of Sheena Iacurci, 2724 Merwin Lane, Prescott, ON

Attendance: John Barron, Marianne Hebert, David Katz, Tom Ortmeyer, Marie Fernandez de Alaiza

Blair Madore was unable to attend, so John Barron took notes.

1. Minutes of March 13 Meeting. Noted to include location of meeting, Marianne Hebert's residence in Potsdam. Moved by David, seconded by Marie, to approve the minutes. Carried unanimously.
2. St. Regis River Advisory Council. Moved by Marianne, seconded by Tom, to endorse Rod Woodin as chapter rep on the Council. Carried unanimously.
3. E-Letter Editor. David K looked into Mail Chimp and at first glance it didn't appear appropriate. We could consider an E-Mail address like elletter@adklaurentian.org that would forward to one of us. Mail Chimp needs a specific, fixed address of origin. Facebook - Marianne looked into it. It sets priorities based on an algorithm and doesn't guarantee delivery, so it does not seem appropriate. David will continue to evaluate Mail Chimp. Marianne is willing to take the E-Letter on, at least initially. It might be worth having several people able to issue them.
4. Treasurer (Marie Fernandez de Alaiza). Financial reports circulated. Paid donation to ADK of \$250 in memory of Betty Peckham. Mary MacKinnon is in the process of assembling some claims for hospitality expenses. Some parts of statements have been transcribed and may not be perfectly accurate. Quick Books would be an improvement. Desktop version is about \$250. Cloud version is more expensive without adding functionality. Moved David, seconded Tom, to authorize an unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$300 for a Quick Books license. Carried unanimously. Noted that Quick Books data files could be sent to other people for off-site backup, even though others wouldn't be able to operate on the data. Tom Ortmeyer is an alternate signing authority on the accounts.
5. Director (Tom Ortmeyer). The Club received a clean audit report. It was a difficult year financially for the Club. They started with an aggressive budget and had to retreat. Construction led to extra costs. The first three months of this year have been better. Tom can provide copies of Club financial statements upon request. The contract under which the DEC hires the ADK Pro Trail Crew is in place.
6. Conservation (David Katz). There's a ten mile stretch of railway tracks between Utica and Booneville/Lowville that is completely parked in with derelict oil cars. David contacted John Tenbusch at Country Planning Office about this. There is track in St Lawrence County, such as the line to Newton Falls owned by the St Lawrence County Industrial Development Authority and the line from Ogdensburg to Norfolk owned by the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, that could conceivably be used to store old tank cars. David is trying to anticipate and forestall storage of unwanted rail cars anywhere in St. Lawrence County (as has been happening in Tahawus). Tom Ortmeyer recommends trying to identify a local politician willing to take on the cause.
7. Outings (Marianne Hebert). Marianne received a question from a new member about the dog policy; there was brief discussion about the version we used to have posted on the web site. No outing cancellations this season - weather has been good.
8. Social Media (Marianne Hebert). 172 Facebook friends. Marianne vets all who request to follow the chapter. New followers are joining gradually.

9. Membership (John Barron on behalf of Randy Saumier). Current total membership 413. In January 2018, 409. In April 2017, 392. No new membership campaigns in past quarter. We continue to send welcome letters and answer questions. Can't gauge if letters lead to increased participation in outings. Discussion: membership seems to be growing, slowly but steadily. Only a small fraction of the membership take part in outings, so outing participation is a separate issue (it was noted that outing participation is growing too).

10. Education (John Barron on behalf of Jeanna Matthews). Nothing new to report.

11. Mid-Week Paddles. A new member has suggested that there be regular mid-week evening paddling trips at a particular location and time. That kind of set-up amounts to a pick-up trip and it can't be an ADK trip. Marianne will ask our leadership for volunteers to put one or two such trips on the schedule as organized trips and see if it could develop.

12. Request for Leaders for ADK Fall Outing in Finger Lakes. We've received a second request from the organizers. We've publicized the request and there's little more we can do.

13. David Trithart has requested a lead article for the Summer North Wind, so ideas were proposed. Erika Barthelmess on porcupines was suggested, but not enough space; Erika would be great as a pot luck speaker. Tom Ortmeyer has a possibility to look into. Current best option is an EAP article by John Barron.

14. Nominating Committee. Two members on board, a third is sought. Suggestions welcome.

15. RRAC Grant. Mark Simon and Blair Madore have submitted a request to RRAC for \$3,000 for trail maintenance tools.

16. Chapter Basket for Friends of Azure Fund Raiser. Contributions welcome. Contact Marianne.

17. Fall Pot Luck. Guest speaker will be Tyler Socash.

18. Next Meeting Thursday July 5 at Tom Ortmeyer's residence, 15 Lawrence Ave., Potsdam.

Adjourned at 9:00 PM