

12/9/2020 Meeting of the Executive Committee
Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

Attending over Zoom: David Katz, Ellie Menz, Marianne Hebert, Blair Madore, Tom Van de Water, Jim Burdick, Joan Trivilinho, David Trithart and Holly Woodworth.

1. Marianne Hebert pointed out one correction to the minutes. Motion to approve corrected minutes of 7/22 and 9/20. Motion passed without dissent.

2. We discussed how the ADK head club withheld the chapter share for six months of this year. Holly Woodworth explained that the Board passed a resolution to make it legal. We have started receiving dues as of October. What will happen next year is unknown at this point. Blair suggests even using our reserves would be acceptable. Ellie points out our next year's budget is unknown and we may lose money to the club again. We have spent a considerable sum for Kids on the Trail patches and Looney Loop patches. Joan moved to make year end donations to ADK of \$500 and Friends of Higley Flow State Park of \$100. Second by Marianne. Motion carried 7-1.

4. Marianne was contacted over Facebook as someone was looking for a senior walking group in the village of Potsdam. We discussed how liability forms might work for this activity. Marianne will check on it further. There was some interest from David Trithart, Joan, Blair and Marianne.

5. What should we do about the North Wind Newsletter? David has not been able to publish an issue since January and has received no correspondence to ask about missing issues. David is not interested in continuing as editor. Blair and Marianne spoke in favor of continuing the electronic Northwind. Joan suggests we use FB to make a broad call for someone to become editor. David Katz will use our email blast to request a volunteer for newsletter editing. Blair made a motion to abandon all paper publication of the Northwind but to continue it as a purely electronic newsletter. Holly seconded. Motion passed without dissent. Blair will send David Katz job description for NorthWind newsletter.

6. Joan moved to not renew our bulk mailing permit. Tom seconded. We discussed the cost ,over \$200 per year, and how it will not be needed without a Northwind to mail. Motion passed without dissent.

7. We had a discussion about the budget. We are not a point where we could approve a budget yet - too many unknowns especially as to whether ADK will be sending us our share of the membership dues. Blair asked for an expanded budget for RSST materials to facilitate work, in anticipation of reimbursement from RRAC. After discussion David Katz said he will put in \$750 for RSST spending. Ellie asked about merchandise and David explained that he expected any sales to offset expenses so he had not put in any money in the budget for this item. The EAP is in question as budget support on campus has dried up and many campus things are on hold because of Covid. Marianne suggested \$200 for college weekend even if we use it to support college students across the North Country not just students in the EAP program. We agreed the photo contest should continue so \$200 for prizes will be in the budget. Blair promised if he won to donate his prize back to the club. David will send out a revised budget electronically and ask for approval.

9. Membership Report from Marianne: We have 233 households and 361 members. She is contacting new members and lapsed members. We have 232 members in our facebook group. Stats on facebook usage are not available through Marianne noted that a typical post is seen by 75-100 people, liked by less than ten and receives 1-2 comments.

10 Indoors - Outdoors. Blair encouraged using facebook to publicize the upcoming series. David Katz to share information about the series in email.

11. Conservation Report from Tom. No news to report., Brief discussion about hearings about changes at Debar.

12. Director's Report from Holly. The directors met last weekend and passed a budget for ADK. They also voted to spend \$6000 from Woodworth fund for Leave No Trace in the Catskills. No information is available on on bylaw changes or committees.

13. Treasurer's Report from Ellie Menz. Ellie has taken over from Marie as of December 1. She is working to get bank accounts transferred over. Ellie asked what do we do with the \$3000 CD coming due December 15. Should we renew for same term? Ellie will check out options and advise over email. Given uncertainty for the coming year some discussion about short term renewal took place.

14. Red Sandstone Trail Report - Blair will receive \$446.93 from the Racquette River Advisory Committee (RRAC) to reimburse him for material expenses incurred when building a new bridge at the northern tip of Sugar Island. This was completed in October 2019 with the Clarkson Timber Bridge Team. Blair with help from friends Al Petrosky and Jeff Miller has done some maintenance on the trail this fall including new trail registers, improved signage and the beginnings of some bench cutting along the pipeline. Plans for stairs up the large hill near the northern trailhead are also underway. Marianne recently walked through an area of the trail known as the gulch where our past trail work has now been destroyed by natural erosion. Hikers have been walking around across private land. Maintenance at this spot was postponed this year due to Covid and Blair's family emergency. It will be a priority for 2021 though will likely have to wait until fall, when it would be safe to have a large team working close together. Blair also reported that Mark Simon was able to secure about \$1300 from the RRAC for work on the Stone Valley Trail.

15. Merchandise and Education Report from Jim. The patches for the Loony Loop have been ordered and Jim asked we get ADK to put a link to it on their webpage. Jim asked us to share any educational opportunities we encounter with him. Blair has been working with William Eckhart from the Potsdam Public Library on some joint outdoor trips. One was held in October on the RSST and Blair will lead one Saturday December 12 at Higley Flow. Blair will put Jim and William in contact with each other.

16. Report from David Trithart. They have already received 500 new Kids on the Trail patches and have begun distributing them. ADK created and printed a large number of brochures about the challenge. David has some to distribute in our area if anyone has ideas of where to place them. Blair will put some in our Trail Registers on the RSST.

8. Next meeting February 10, 7pm.