

ADK Laurentian Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes, Meeting at home of Holly Woodworth, Wanakena
August 2, 2023

Action items are in bold.

Called to order: 6:23 pm

Attending: Marianne Hebert, Holly Woodworth, Blair Madore, David Katz (no quorum)

Minutes – no quorum, so will take up at the next meeting

Nominating Committee – no progress to report. **Marianne will give them a Sept 1 deadline** so we can get ballots out in a timely fashion.

Chair report:

- Sent letter in support of Potsdam waterfront project (reproduced below)
- Stone Valley Signage – progress is being made. Design style is different from previous ones. New signs have much more information than the previous ones. Hopefully being printed in August and put in place later in the season.
- QR codes for electronic trail register for Red Sandstone and Stone Valley trails – no one is looking regularly at the google spreadsheets that the QR codes lead to. Jeff Miller was suggested as possibly being interested in keeping on top of this. **David will send Jeff Miller the login information** for looking at the online trail signins.

New business:

- 2024 budget – needs to get to club in September. **Marianne will send out the revised proposed budget** for approval before submitting. Several questions and ideas were discussed:
 - Education budget – what trainings should the chapter offer or alternatively pay to send a chapter member to attend? How do we get someone from our chapter approved to be a trainer? Discussion of how to get train the trainer training so we can teach the courses ourselves. Adam Wheeler was mentioned as a potential trainer (who would probably need training). Budgeting tentatively \$2000, either to send people out or to bring trainer(s) in. **Holly will survey outings leaders to see which leaders are interested in which trainings** so that we can budget more accurately.
 - Should there be spring and fall potlucks? Split opinion; we're leaving the budget money in place. Budgeting \$300 for speakers. Speakers could be at potlucks, outdoors-indoors, or separate speaker events.
 - Memberships – nobody has asked about complimentary memberships this year. Should we eliminate the complimentary membership budget line?
 - Discussion of teen trailwork sponsorships. Not added to budget.

- **Holly will compile statistics** of how many outings we offer, how many people go on each outing and how many distinct hikers there are.
- Discussion of how to find outdoorspeople (Adk members or not) who would be potential outing leaders and EC members. (No conclusions reached.)

Next meeting – Wed Sept 27 6:00 pm at Marianne’s house, 9 Spring St Potsdam

Adjourned – 7:35 pm

July 18, 2023

The Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez
New York Secretary of State
c/o The Office of Planning, Development and Community Infrastructure
99 Washington Ave., Suite 1010
Albany, New York 12231
Re: Letter of Support for the Village of Potsdam Sandstoner Park Recreation Center Design Project

Dear Secretary Rodriguez:

I am writing on behalf of the Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) to support the Village of Potsdam's application for grant funding through the NYS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP).

In 2012, the Village adopted its "Downtown and Waterfront Revitalization Plan" that was financially supported through the LWRP. Since the plan's adoption, Potsdam's Board of Trustees and its partners have worked tirelessly to implement the ambitious goals set forth in the document. These efforts have resulted in the Village receiving several LWRP grants for successful waterfront revitalization projects at Ives, Fall Island, and Garner Parks and its receipt of a 2019 Downtown Revitalization Initiative award for streetscape enhancements and the construction of a riverwalk trail.

The theme for Potsdam's application is access: physical access to the Raquette River for residents and visitors to enjoy the river's magnificent recreational resources, access to a sorely needed community recreation center, and access to information to make the most of a visit to Sandstoner Park and the Raquette River Blueway Trail.

To better connect residents and visitors to Sandstoner Park located on the Raquette River, Potsdam proposes to install two Raquette River Blueway Trail Information Kiosks to communicate how First Nations people used the river's abundant natural resources in their daily lives and how Potsdam connects to communities along the 174-mile long Raquette River Blueway Trail.

Additionally, Potsdam proposes to use LWRP funds to develop architectural plans and specifications for the renovation of the 50-year-old Pine Street Arena at Sandstoner Park. Specifically, Potsdam will develop plans for the arena's substantial renovation, and the construction of an addition to the arena that will include a new multi-purpose community room with a kitchenette that may function as an emergency cooling center, new locker rooms that may be used for a range of health and fitness activities such as yoga classes, weight training and aerobics, new restroom facilities, and an office/skate rental room.

The Laurentian Chapter of the ADK has ~350 members who are enthusiastic users of the Raquette River Blue Way Corridor and the parks and facilities in Potsdam. The Pine Street Arena and Sandstoner Park have recently been the venue for our annual summer picnic and outings. While we generally use the outdoor pavilion and the beach for our events, the building serves as our alternate rain location and our participants make use of the kayaks and paddle boards for our river outings.

The proposed kiosks Raquette River Blue Way Corridor and renovations to Pine Street Arena and Sandstener Park would be tremendous assets to our membership, the residents of Potsdam, students from local colleges, and visitors to our community.

The Laurentian Chapter enthusiastically supports the Village of Potsdam's application for LWRP funding. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of Potsdam's application for funding.

Sincerely,

Marianne Hebert
Chair, Laurentian Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club

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