

COLUMBIA COUNTY ABATE
Thursday, March 3, 2011
Secretary's Minutes

The meeting called to order at 7:06 pm at Whitestone Café by President Joel Dyslin, with ___ members in attendance including 4 officers. Pledge to the flag was recited. Joel thanked everyone for coming to tonight's meeting.

SECRETARY – Motion **MOTION #08-2011** was made by Allen and seconded by Karen to waive the minutes of the February 2011 meeting, with all present in favor.

PRESIDENT -- He said the newsletter is out, working on dates of events calendar, some date changes will be necessary and will be updated. Anyone can visit the website, plus Karen said she will correct dates as necessary, which will be reflected in the next newsletter. Karen also said that photos from previous runs are welcome; there is plenty of room on the website to post stuff. Next deadline for newsletter is March 24 for the April newsletter.

Joel said he would like to have an appointment of an ABATE member to Traffic Safety. This has to be done by a Town Supervisor, and suggested that letters of endorsement can be submitted. Anyone can participate in town board meetings and listen in to what's going on, but only town boards have voting rights.

Joel also said the next Region E meeting is April 17, probably in Kingston; he will find out where. Any ABATE member can attend regional meetings, and he encourages participation.

VICE PRESIDENT said the state board meeting was short with low attendance because of stormy weather. He said the new Sgt. Of Arms kept the meeting on track. At the state level, they are trying to "get their house in order"; they do not want to touch monies that are in a CD at this time. He said there have been 3 chapters who folded. The state cannot support chapters who don't have proper paperwork, reports in order and need to balance the budget. The state will not be continuing the incentive fund starting this year because of lack of funds. He said they did try to discontinue it last year, but because of incorrect wording of motion, it could not be done. Our chapter received \$664 check tonight from the incentive fund.

Main goal is to increase membership; and motions made to increase membership dues was voted down. The state newsletter was discussed again, and it was brought to the floor to change the paper it was printed on from white paper to newsprint quality. Pete said that it was stated ABATE would lose advertisers if this was done.

Pete mentioned the minister who won his Supreme Court case and right to protest against gays, military, and anyone else in the USA, saying God is punishing us. His followers have to stay 1000 yards away from any event, including military funerals. He said he's sure the Patriot Guards who are made up of veterans and bikers will make sure to do their part in keeping protesters as far away as possible.

Pete also stated that it's important to join a motorcycle rights organization – be it ABATE, the MRF or the AMA. It's important to protect our riding rights. Please encourage other people to be aware and join a rights group. He said there are 8,000

registered bikes in Columbia County alone. Our membership is at 143 and with the state losing three chapters, its important to retain and increase membership in motorcycle groups. The money helps in the form of membership dues; State and local meetings are open to the public, and you don't necessarily have to be an ABATE member to attend meetings.

TREASURER -- Treasurer Mark Sigler gave his report as follows: Beginning balance: \$3,485.42 with no income, and one expense of \$100 for MRF dues, leaving an ending balance of \$3,385.42; savings balance for 200 Club is \$241.52. This does not include the \$664 given to Mark tonight from incentive funds. **MOTION #09-2011** made by Frank and seconded by Allen to accept the treasurer's report with all in favor. Mark continued by reading his letter of resignation as treasurer for the chapter due to his many commitments and lack of time to devote to the position. He stated that the President has all records for the past few years. **MOTION #10-2011** was made by Denise and seconded by Roger to accept Mark's resignation with all in favor; he was thanked for his time.

LEGISLATION -- Prospector stated that it was a holiday last week, with not a lot to report. He said the Confiscation bill does not yet have a number assigned to it, and it has not been printed. He will stay on top of this. He has appointments lined up to meet with some new legislators; everything is a little slow but routine. He is trying to get an appointment with the new governor, will keep trying, but is not optimistic. He said the new assemblyman is from Dutchess County, and has been supportive in the past. We are also losing an assemblyman by governor appointment. There is a new Commissioner of the DMV who was a former Broome County executive. He hopes to get an appointment to meet with her regarding road blocks, bills, and other matters. He will be attending three fundraisers in the near future with funding by the AMA and PAC collections.

Allan said that he read the latest state newsletter and commented on the detailed three-page report on Legislation made by Prospector, which had never occurred in the past with the previous Legislative coordinator. He said we are "damn lucky" to have Prospector as Legislative coordinator, both at the state level and our County ABATE. Prospector received a round of applause in appreciation.

MEMBERSHIP -- There was no membership report at tonight's meeting as Jen Ross did not receive the current membership lists from the State; she was provided with last year's membership list by mistake.

PRODUCTS – In the absence of Paula at tonight's meeting, Pete reminded every one that t-shirts are needed, preferably black Harley ones with colorful logos. The plan for this year's quilt is to have a Columbia County ABATE t-shirt in the middle, with black Harley ones surrounding it. Products will be available at the Cabin Fever party.

SGT. of ARMS -- Everything's clear; nothing to report.

ROAD CAPTAIN -- Allan said the run is almost set; he will be making the run this weekend to map it out for mileage and time. He will have copies of the run typed up and available at the Cabin Fever party. It will start from usual location, Plaza Diner in Hudson, with first stop at Ronnie's H/D in Pittsfield, Mass., continuing to Mount Greylock and subsequent stops from there, ending at Mount Washington in Hillsdale.

We need to be careful riding the highways; they are a mess from the winter weather, potholes, gravel, patches, etc.

NEW BUSINESS/MISCELLANEOUS –

Cabin Fever Party – Will be held on Saturday, March 19 starting at 5:00 pm, for \$10 per person at Joe's Bar on Fairview Avenue in Hudson. Fees will be waived for any new members who sign up that night.

Pete stated that this year's Christmas party will be held at Kozels again; more plans for this event to follow.

Karen asked about Flag Day/Committee. Pete will be on this committee working with the Elks Club; they have a meeting next Wednesday, and he will know more at our next meeting, including the theme. Flag Day is June 11 this year.

Frank and Denise let everyone know that 16 rooms are taken so far out of 30 rooms booked at the reduced rate for Rolling Thunder. The cut-off date for sign-ups is March 27, so people who want to attend need to sign up as soon as possible.

Chatham Fair and the ABATE's booth rental fees was brought up. A deposit on the booth rental is needed by April 1 of \$200, with total cost of \$480, plus insurance. ABATE gets the insurance money back, after providing proof of insurance. Pete asked about having a co-sponsor of the ABATE booth at the fair to share in rental expenses. Karen stated that with ABATE donating \$500 to the hospitality room in Albany this spring, she doesn't see why we would need a co-sponsor, as we can afford the rental expense. After discussion, a motion **MOTION #11-2011** was made to by Allan, seconded by Ed Keyes to pay the \$200 deposit for the booth rental, with all in favor.

Jenn Archer asked about information packets for people wanting to know what ABATE is: Pete will get her information. Karen also said she has made up copies of information in the past, that we are a legislative organization, and identifying bills ABATE supports and is against. This can be done again; plus there is information on ABATE in the membership trifold.

Jack mentioned that the East Coast Riders are having their own Cabin Fever party on Friday night, March 4, at the Niverville Pub, starting at 7:00 pm; the cost is \$20 per person, if anyone is interested in attending. East Coast Riders are also invited to our Cabin Fever party.

There being no other business to come before the meeting, **MOTION #12-2011** was made by Karen, seconded by Jill, to adjourn the meeting with all in favor; meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm. The PAC hat collected \$24.

Respectfully submitted,
Zandra Boice, Secretary