



**2018 Annual Voting Members Meeting
MINUTES**

**Saturday, November 3
10:00 a.m. - 11:40 a.m.**

At the Darlington Schoolhouse, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ

In attendance:

Sue Barbuto, At-Large Voting Member
Richard Barr, NY Ramblers/Catskill 3500 Club
Suse Bell, At-Large Voting Member
Jane Daniels, EH RTC
Walt Daniels, Board Member
Matt Decker, At-Large Voting Member
Jack Driller, At-Large Voting Member
Charlotte Fahn,
Bill Gannett, At-Large Voting Member
Peter Heckler,
Robert Jonas,
John Jurasek, Publications Committee Chair
John Mack, West Hudson South Trails Chair
George A. O'Lear, Westchester Trails
Association
Wayne Owens, MH-ADK (delegate for Sally
Decker)

Deborah Padula-Genna, At-Large Voting
Member
Peter Reiner, At-Large Voting Member
Ruth Rosenthal, At-Large Voting Member
Susan Scher, At-Large Voting Member
Doug Sohn, At-Large Voting Member
Don Tripp, West Jersey Trail Chair
Patsy Wooters, Board Vice-Chair

David Howard, Member
Wayne Owens, Member
Michael Rosenthal, Member
June Slade, Member
Ed Walsh, Life Time Member

Ed Goodell, Executive Director
Nancy Krause, Executive Assistant
Don Weise, Director of Membership and
Development

Welcome: Ed Goodell welcomed the Voting Members and thanked them for such a great turnout.

Approval of November 4, 2017 meeting minutes: John Mack made a motion, seconded by Walt Daniels, to approve the November meeting minutes. All were in favor.

Board of Directors/At-large Voting Member Nominations: Ed Goodell explained that, per the bylaws, that there were normally only 5 appointments per year, but 2 current Board members resigned and were appointed by the Board Chair. Those two appointments now have to be approved by the voting members. Don Tripp made a motion, seconded by Doug Sohn, to approve the nominations. All were in favor.

Introduce new member clubs: Ed welcomed 2 new member clubs:

Yorktown Trail Town Committee, supporting club membership, with 15 members. The Yorktown Trail Town Committee is a volunteer committee that formed in September 2014, to promote the Town of Yorktown. Comprised of residents and business owners from the town, the committee seeks to promote the greater recreational, health and social benefits to its residents and visitors through parks, trails and open spaces located in the Town of Yorktown. The YTTC sponsors events, including guided walks, hikes and cycle rides that encourage greater use of Yorktown's extensive trail network. Jane Daniels, from the club, reported that they had just completed a 564-foot boardwalk through a wetland.

The second new club is PROACTIVE - AHW (Adventure, Health, and Wellness), a member organization, with 30 members. PROACTIVE has activities "...to encourage a proactive lifestyle through enjoyment of the outdoors, healthier living, and mental stimulation by creating exciting, original content that will motivate our followers to action and to facilitate such action..." It is a new organization that is passionate and serious about the trails and we are committed to volunteer and charity work, utilization of the trails, and the overall appreciation of nature.

Executive Director's Report: Ed invited everyone to attend the Gunzler Dedication at 1:00pm. John Gunzler was a lifetime member and partner of the Trail Conference. He gave a total of 182 gifts to the TC and he believe in "The Art of the Possible."

The discussion then moved to the Budget. He explained the overhead projection of the 3rd quarter finance report (see attached). Ed explained that we are currently 94k ahead of the budget. Sale of publications are currently down and our expenses for Trail Development are up. The final quarter is when 700k in donations must be raised to meet the year end budget.

Ed then presented the Access for All trail plan. Erik Michelson has developed a 2.6-mile handicap accessible trail. The Bolger Foundation has committed a 300k donation to the project. As the Trail Conference turns 100 years old in the 2 years, this project will be one of the first capital campaign projects.

Ed then gave a presentation on Conserving Trail Corridors. Examples from the Shawangunk Ridge and the Long Path long distance trails were used to explain just how the Trail Conference works to preserve corridors. Finishing the Long Path will be part of the centennial campaign. In the end, these corridors create multiple parks and enlarge existing parks. In 2004 the Trail Conference created the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Fund (LASF) that raised 1.2 million that has since been used to protect 5,000 acres of land. There is now 1.5 million in the LASF. Peter Dolan, the New Jersey Project Manager, is developing the Highlands Trail signage and to increase awareness and usage to get municipalities more engaged and using Green Acres funding to purchase land for the Highlands Trail.

Member Clubs Presentation: Don Weise, the Director of Membership and Development, presented an overview of the benefits for our 90 current member clubs. Don asked for input of how the Trail Conference can further engage and serve our clubs. The Trail Conference will be sending out a survey in 2019 to collect more information from clubs.

Other Business: John Mack explained why the bridges in the West Hudson region have not been replaced. The Park Managers have been against replacement due to wash out concerns. They have recently gotten an o.k. to use trees, but it is difficult due to the 36.5-foot span needed for crossing. Much discussion followed on the different possible solutions of bridge construction.

Next followed a discussion on Breakneck Ridge/Fjord Trail. The Fjord trail is going out to bid again. Program coordinator, Hank Osborn, is on the steering committee for this project. Construction may begin in 2019. The Trail Conference suggests chaining off areas of Breakneck Ridge and increased signage for restoration. The Trail Conference also suggests more Trail Stewards at the top and bottom of the trail in addition to building new trails to give people the option to get back down alternate routes. Unfortunately, there is currently no funding for Trail Stewards and the program may have to be dropped.

Lastly, the Trail Conference Appalachian Trail Restoration Project at Bear Mountain Video was shown.

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned. All were in favor.

Recorded by Nancy Krause.