

TACONIC HIKING CLUB BOARD MEETING

January 14, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Via Zoom

PRESENT:

Board Members Martha Waldman, Karen Ross, Leslie Siegard, Sue Jordan, Dave Pisaneschi, Margaret Parks, and End-To-End Coordinator Tom Hart

MINUTES:

The minutes from the September 26 meeting were approved, with a motion made by Karen and seconded by Leslie.

THE 2021 END-TO-END

A discussion was held about whether or not to hold the E2E this spring. Because of many unknowns about the COVID-19 virus and because of potential risks to participants and volunteers, it was agreed to wait until 2022.

Tom suggested considering a virtual E2E, where over a certain time period, perhaps a month, individuals could do the E2E on their own, with THC volunteers stashing water at pertinent junctions and with participants notifying us of their dates and data. Documentation of an individual's completion would be by registrants having a number assigned to them and then by ripping that number page out of a book left up on the trail.

Discussion focused on some of the difficulties of executing that plan, including getting water up on the trail, making sure bottles were not either taken by others or discarded, the book being picked up by a random trail user, and the logistics of managing a new process when COVID is making so many daily activities their own challenge.

An idea was floated to offer the "Bloody Foot" or "Ultra" patch to those ultrahikers who are members or become members and complete the trail in one day. However, with the member patch, the summer patch, and the winter patch, it was decided to let this idea go.

In the end it was decided to cancel this year's E2E, not offer a virtual challenge, and wait until 2022, when THC can again revert to its traditional E2E format.

TREASURER:

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report for 2020 including the narrative included here and the Excel file attached of 2020 income and expenses:

Treasurer's Report through December 31, 2020

For the fourth quarter receipts exceeded expenses by \$906, reducing the year-to-date shortfall to \$162. The deficit budgeted for 2020 was \$2010. While revenues from dues fell slightly short of budget (\$239) sales of maps and patches more than covered the shortfall.

There were no miscellaneous charges in the fourth quarter. The website expense of \$216 reflects the annual hosting fee. Overall expenses for 2020 were \$1939 less than budgeted due largely to the cancellation of the annual banquet and the End to End.

The last line on the financial statement notes the amount of the End to End deposits received. These are a liability until the event is held. I will keep this note on the financials until next year when the event is held. If any deposits are refunded the amount will be updated.

The Board also approved the 2021 Budget after several revisions for additional expenses like decals, patches, and a donation to Dyken Pond. See attached.

Leslie will contact the auditor in the next week or two regarding the 2020 audit.

MEMBERSHIP:

In 2020 we had 224 members. So far there have been 124 renewals. There have been 27 new members as of today for 2021, a remarkable number that may be attributed to widespread outreach by the monthly newsletters.

A membership/dues renewal reminder will go in the next newsletter for February, and Sue will follow up with an email reminder around February 15.

With only 35 membership patches left, Sue requested a re-order. Lynn Nagengast will work with Sue and include the membership patches with her summer patch order. Leslie has included \$500 in the 2021 budget for this expense.

The Board voted to approve an order of THC car decals. \$150 was allocated for this expense, and Leslie will place an order of interior decals with the THC logo.

PUBLICITY:

There are currently 539 “Likes” on Facebook and 573 follow us.

Martha wants to continue featuring THC’s partners and new trails in the Newsletter. BNRC and RLT have already been included and next month the plan is to highlight Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation (WRLF)

TRAIL WORK:

The Club contributed over 500 hours of trail work in 2020. Dave reports the addition of a robust new trail worker, James Grady, who in addition to regular stalwarts Walt Addicks (who covers the northern section), Ed Slattery (who works in the Mattison Hollow area), Dave Cole, Mike Bouchard, Cliff Prewencki, Martha, Karen, and Dave are helping keep the trail in shape. Dave will be running a scan of the whole trail this winter, with the first southern section scheduled this week.

Martha is redoing Phil Fountain’s plaque. Because the bench that was made for Susan Roberts disappeared from its storage place at Grafton Lake State Park during a flood and subsequent shed relocation, it was decided to use an existing bench on the north side of Petersburg Pass and put up a plaque for Susan there.

Dave or Martha will reach out to the new family who recently moved to Robinson Hollow and who are interested in helping out with trail work.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 15, 2021, via Zoom, 9:30 a.m.