

Taconic Hiking Club Board Meeting
October 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm
Via Zoom

PRESENT: Martha Waldman, Karen Ross, Leslie Siegard, Margaret Parks, Michelle Filiault
ABSENT: Sue Jordan, David Pisaneschi

MINUTES: Accepted and approved minutes from the July 22, 2022 board meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022:

As in past years, there was not much activity in the July-September period. Third quarter receipts fell \$24 short of revenue. Year to date receipts remain ahead of expenses by \$614. Receipts are expected to exceed expenses through year's end.

Dues are only \$660 short from the annual budget. This should be more than made up in the fourth quarter. In 2021, fourth quarter dues receipts totaled \$850. Maps are short of budget by \$519, and patches short by \$36. It is unlikely this will be completely recovered in the fourth quarter. I expect revenue for the year will fall slightly short of budget due to the maps and patches shortfall.

The amount in refunds comprises a bounced patch check and bank fee repaid by the individual.

Expenses for the 9 months ended September 30 remain below budget due to the second quarter picnic expense and timing of the annual meeting expense. The annual meeting expense will be recognized in November.

Misellaneous expense of \$315.45 comprises \$300 for the web cam and batteries purchased in August as approved by the committee and \$16 for a bounced check and bank fee. This was refunded by the individual and is reflected in Refunds in Income.

Also noted, the board unanimously approved a \$300 expenditure for the purchase of a Stealth Cam, 2020, G42N6, 24 MP trail cam (2 pack) plus batteries. This follows a few discussions about trail cameras with NYS DEC Forester Patrick McGarrity. Steve Jackson, Ranger, will use them as a tool to help catch ATV users on the trail.

TRAIL WORK:

Trail crews have logged in 671 hours of trail work completed so far this year, compared to 506 hours for 2021.

Reroutes completed in 2022:

Section on the northern end of trail north of access road near Route 346.

Section just south of the junction with the Robinson Hollow Trail. This bypasses the mud wallows created by ATVs. It also creates a wilder hiking experience.

Next Year:

Work with DEC and get trail crew to work on the section just north of the access road near Route 346. This trail section is very wet and becomes overgrown.

Consider rerouting the section just south of the Phil Fountain Memorial Bench. This section is extremely steep.

Need someone to adopt the section from Snow Hole to Prosser Hollow.

Peter reported the existence of a dangerous overhanging tree. We will get DEC to look at it, since we do not want our trail crews to deal with anything dangerous.

MEMBERSHIP:

There are 254 members to date. The renewal notice will be in the November newsletter.

SOCIAL:Banquet:

There are 10-12 people registered so far. Meal options will be chicken parmesan or salmon florentine. A free meal will be provided to the speaker. The speaker will speak for a maximum of 30 minutes and allow 10 minutes of Q&A. Martha will follow-up with some people who might be interested in attending. We have paid a non-refundable deposit to the restaurant. The board discussed and agreed to reimburse the speaker for gas expenses, and to make a \$100 donation to the HVA. For the election of board members, a verbal "Yay/Nay" vote will be taken instead of a paper ballot.

OUTINGS:

No update.

PUBLICITY:

No update.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proposed date for next end-to-end: Saturday May 11, 2024. Martha will contact the park to confirm the date the park plans to open the Berry Pond campsites and confirm the proposed End-to-End date.

Ideas to get more people active on boards & committees: Add weekend hikes to include working people. Consider advertising in newspapers. Facebook page - include link to newsletter/outings page. We now have 10-12 hike leaders.

New Year's budget thoughts: Bring back volunteer recognition for 2023. We need to order more patches. Do we need to order more trail markers/signs, possibly arrow signs? We will speak to DEC about signage.

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 16, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Filiault, Secretary