

Taconic Hiking Club Board Meeting
October 30, 2023 at 6:30 pm
Via Zoom

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

MINUTES: Minutes from the July 17, 2023 board meeting were accepted and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Year to date receipts are close to \$1000. Renewals are not coming in. A reminder will be sent out. Eleven applications were received in October for new members. Income from maps is coming in but is below budget. Patch requests are also very slow.

Discussed how much to charge for the E2E... Last time the fee was \$50. Discussion was held regarding what we could spend the E2E income on such as more trail cams, locks for trail cams, and signage regarding trail cams. Dave will speak with Steve and Patrick about these possible needs.

SOCIAL:

We have 29 people signed up for the luncheon. Registration and payment is due by November 1. Karen will introduce the speaker.

Discussed the annual meeting for next year. Price will remain \$20 per person with the club subsidizing the rest. We will have an on-line payment option. Dave P has offered to speak about canoeing in the Arctic.

MEMBERSHIP:

For 2023, we have 223 members including 26 new members. 67 did not renew. We have 11 new members so far for 2024.

TRAIL WORK:

Trail Work Hours:

2023: 533.55

2022: 735.80

2021: 506.50

2020: 505.25

The bump in 2022 was due to (1) reroutes near the northern trail head near Route 346 and (2) the section of the TCT heading south immediately past the Robinson Hollow junction.

Trail is in very good shape, based on my field observations and what other trail stewards are reporting. There was a lot of activity during the spring / early summer, but it fell off this summer due to the intense heat and humidity.

We have two sections open for adoption (a) Route 2 to Snowhole and (b) SE Hollow to Green Hollow.

Walt Reported on 10/8/23: The ATV use in the Prosser Hollow trail area has picked up in the last couple of years. The trail is getting pretty beaten down and widened. Fortunately the terrain is dry and hard so it's not as bad as it could be. Most of the traffic via the trail from Vermont just below the overlook

seems to go down Prosser Hollow trail or continue south on the TCT. Very few seem to go north there on the TCT. Right now there is a blowdown across the trail which blocks them. On the northern end of the trail, south of the jeep road, ATV use had dropped off. No signs of four wheelers in the area where in the past they used to smash our plank bridges. See some 2 wheeled tracks but not a lot.

Bear Incident on Mattison Reported by Ed Slatery on 8/14/23: A bear bathing in Kronk Creek way up by the stream coming down from the left. Mom and 2 cubs by the bridge over Kronk Creek just above the falls. Then a bear ran up the side of the mt. about halfway back to the car. Glad they wanted nothing to do with us.

DEC Activities:

DEC Ranger Steve Jackson reported that he has issued 6 tickets in the northern section of the trail to illegal ATV riders. Our Trail Cam has been indispensable.

DEC removed a jeep off the ridge via the Robinson Hollow trail.

Due to the recent addition of state land, consider improved parking on the Mattison Hollow Road.

I'm working with Peter on a proposal to DEC to consider a reroute just past the Phil Fountain Bench to eliminate the steep section just past the PH bench. We will not flag anything until after the E2E and consulting with DEC.

Trail signs will be changed from metal to plastic before the next order goes out. We will save the metal ones to use as a backup.

PUBLICITY: Nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Dave Fisk passed away. Martha will get a sympathy card to send to his wife.

E2E Challenge

See Taconic Crest Trail End-to-End Tasks/Volunteer Positions 2024 document created by Martha. An ad will be placed in the next newsletter. We will need many volunteers. Should we consider a paid position for an E2E Coordinator?

Spring Gathering

Date & location will be determined at the January meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 22, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Filiault, Secretary