

Taconic Hiking Club Board Meeting
November 15, 2021 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

PRESENT:

Martha Waldman, Karen Ross, Leslie Siegard, Sue Jordan, Dave Pisaneschi, Margaret Parks

MINUTES:

The minutes from the July 15, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

This Treasurer's Report covers dates through Oct 31, 2021. The period July-October was very quiet. Receipts exceeded expenses by \$1119.38. Dues are just \$540 short from the annual budget, 54 memberships. Last year we received 56 membership payments in Nov-Dec. Maps are currently just \$23 below annual budget. We should easily meet budget in this category. Patches have exceeded the annual budget since June and are currently \$50 over budget. Our Trail is a big hit!

Expenses for the period were as anticipated. Miscellaneous expenses budgeted for the year, of \$1400 now total \$1462.76 and include \$550 for patches, \$135 for decals and \$146 for member recognition plaques & tributes; \$150 for Fall gathering Door Prizes and Volunteer recognition, and \$475 for Volunteer thank-you vests. All other expenses are less than annual budget. The annual meeting and picnic were canceled due to COVID saving \$320 from budget.

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. There was only one deposit refunded for which the balance was updated.

MEMBERSHIP:

Currently there are 208 members, with new members signing up on a regular basis. There have been 65 renewals for membership for next year, and 24 new for 2022. There are 173 left who still need to renew, so we will see where we are next month after the December Newsletter solicitation and proceed from there.

SOCIAL:

- The Fall Gathering on October 2, 2021 was held at Grafton Lakes State Park with approximately 15 attendees.
- Note: The Board voted via email in September to cancel the Club dinner planned for October 28, 2021 at Bucca de Beppo on Wolf Rd. in Albany due to COVID concerns in a tight indoor space.
- Volunteers are receiving their recognition gifts of reflective vests in blaze orange with Taconic Hiking Club Volunteer on the front. These will be useful for identifying THC workers on the trail and to wear during hunting season.

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END-TO-END:

- The date has now been set for Saturday May 14. Meet at Berry Pond at 5:30 and start on the trail at 6:00 a.m.
- There are 28 participants now with a waitlist of 7 or 8.
- Because there will be no toilet facilities at Berry Pond there will be no camping option or breakfast option at the start. Participants can make their own reservations to camp at the lower camping area at PSF or get their own B&B or hotel room.

- Participants and event volunteers will be required to be vaccinated in accordance with current CDC and state guidelines at the time of the event. Exemptions will be on a case-by-case basis, if granted a negative COVID test will be required within 72 hours of the start for both participants and volunteers, or 24 hours depending on CDC and state guidance at the time.
- To ease the burden on volunteers carrying lunches up Mattison Hollow, the size and/or weight of each participant's lunch will be restricted. Perhaps a retail company would be willing to provide water.
- Martha will ask R.J. to contact the previous bagpiper. (Note: John Sassetelli has agreed to pipe the hikers onto the trail at 6:00 a.m.!))

TRAIL WORK:

- Old Ski Trails—some backcountry skiers have started on their own to open up the old ski trails on Mt. Raimer at Petersburg Pass. One claimed to be working for THC. The Club however, made it clear to DEC that we are abiding by our trail maintenance agreement and do not allow any tree cutting without permission. This project to open up the ski trails will have to be incorporated into the DEC management plan for that area. Hopefully, approval will be given. Dave Pisaneschi has been in touch with Steve Jackson and Paul Jahnige on this issue. Tom McGuire has a map of the routes that he sent to Tim Harmon and that will be forwarded to THC Board members.
- We need one or two volunteers to take over the Berlin Mtn. to Mattison Hollow section of trail. So far volunteers have done 372 hours of work on the trail and access trails.
- Dave would like to see a meeting set up with DEC Region 4 managers to discuss a range of issues, including Mattison Hollow and future logging, with THC arguing for some special designation of that area, perhaps an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.
- The Caleb Carr tract of land that extends up into the Misery Mountain area south of Mattison Hollow is of interest to THC. It is currently for sale after being taken for taxes by the County. Dave will contact Jim Bonesteel for an update. (Note: update from Jim at RPA is that this tract is a delicate transaction, and he is keeping an eye on it. The state has taken over control and hopefully can complete a purchase and preserve it.)

OUTINGS:

- We hope to hold another leader training session after the new year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion began about doing something to celebrate THC's 90th year next year. Send along suggestions!
- A proposal was made to request from DEC and DCR that THC be allowed to put up a simple sign at the major access points stating that the Taconic Hiking Club's volunteers maintain the 37 miles of the Taconic Crest Trail. It could include our website URL.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022, AT 6:30 BY ZOOM