

TACONIC HIKING CLUB BOARD MEETING

Thursday, June 27, Martha Waldman's home, Albany, NY

Submitted by Lori McCarron

PRESENT: Martha Waldman, Karen Ross, Leslie Siegard, David Pisaneschi, Kate Storms, Sue Jordan, Margaret Parks, Lori McCarron

GUEST:

Eric White from the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation (WRLF) came to report on the trails maintained by Williams College that are part of the Taconic Crest system. A group of Williams College students are involved in this project. Phase 1 has been to grade the Berlin Mtn. Road and parking area, which has been accomplished. Phase 2 is to build a kiosk and develop maps of the existing trails. These include the Class of 33 Trail, the Phelps Trail, and the Albany Post Road. Maintenance of these trails is most important. Cosmo Catalano oversees the trail committee at Williams College.

Eric also brought a copy of the North Berkshire Outdoor Guide which is published by the Williams College Outing Club and sells for approximately \$20. A discussion ensued about sources.

Another topic discussed was the importance of cutting and maintaining views from peaks, particularly Berlin Mtn. Some of these areas are privately owned and would require permission.

Also mentioned was a two-day workshop on Columbus Day Weekend at Williams College by the Appalachian Long Distance Hiking Association (ALDHA).

THC and WRLF will stay in communication about developments in the Berlin Mtn. area.

Here is the link to the report submitted by the Williams College study group:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zSES6KjmaU3sWFHTxJKGdGE3YvliGOehKQ7xkDQp7U/edit>

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Leslie Siegard submitted the Treasurer's Report through May 31st.

The checkbook balance was \$7,579.42, the majority coming from dues and donations. The \$300 for the 2019 banquet reservation was approved by the Board via email. The summer picnic on June 9, 2019 cost \$185 for the pavilion rental and food. The report was approved.

Both Gail Fountain and Sharon Bonk have stepped down from the board after many years of volunteer service. It was voted to give each of them \$35 gift cards as a thank you.

It was decided the treasurer's report would be submitted every quarter (for quarterly meetings) rather than every month.

MEMBERSHIP:

A report was given by Sue Jordan. Sue plans to use Google Sheets to share the membership list with board members.

The club has increased by 101 new members since last spring. The club now has 286 members.

SOCIAL:

Margaret Parks reported on the upcoming fall banquet. It will be held at Moscatiello's in North Greenbush, NY on Sunday, October 27th. Menu items approved were Ziti Marinara, Meatballs and Sausage, and Eggplant Parmesan. Suggestions for a speaker were made, requiring further research.

PUBLICITY:

Karen Ross displayed the current triptych board which is used for public displays.

It is old and problematic and needs upgrading and modernization. She has contacted Heather Gibbons from Rising Tide Communications about revising the display with new graphics, digital mounting of text and visuals (including the map) onto laminated and sturdier foam board. This would include layout and design, project management, and three rounds of edits. \$500 was approved for this work. Printing costs will be extra. Heather will be contacting printers for pricing. The goal is to have something ready mid to late summer.

TRAIL WORK:

Dave Pisaneschi has submitted the trail work data via email. He reported that he will meet with Ed Slattery and with DCR about the proposed reroute of the TCT south of Mattison Hollow, since the land is part of the Taconic State Forest in Massachussets.

Two incidents have been reported on the TCT, one involving trucks on the Mattison Hollow trail and one where a fire pit is located at the junction of Mattison Hollow and the TCT.

DEC Ranger Hannah O'Connor ticketed five ATV riders on Berlin Mountain. The Board applauded this action which is hoped will cut down on ATV abuse on the trail. A write up has been published in the DCR new bulletin and will be reported in the THC monthly newsletter.

OUTINGS:

Martha needs new outings for September, October, and November to be submitted by August 21st.

NEWSLETTER:

It was decided to add the DEC dispatch number to the article in the newsletter so that people can report problems immediately. That number is 518-408-5250. Hannah O'Connor's number is 518-414-4605.

NEW BUSINESS:

May 9th, 2020 is the date for the 2020 End 2 End that will be organized by Tom Hart. The date for the kickoff meeting will be determined.

OLD BUSINESS:

We need a ranking system for hikes to better inform members and signees about the length, vertical and difficulty of the outings offered. It was decided to use the ADK system without the hours of trail time they include and to use B- as a category, to be listed as “Moderately Easy” with “6-10 miles” rather than the C+ rating.

A new Club liability release form is needed. Work on this will proceed and an email vote will be taken later.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, October 3rd at 10:00 a.m. Location TBD.