

Taconic Hiking Club Board Meeting
July 15, 2021 6:30 p.m. – 7:50 p.m.
Via Zoom

PRESENT:

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

MINUTES;

The minutes from the April 14 meeting were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Leslie reported that this his quarter there were not a lot of expenses. However, this will change going forward with the Fall Gathering, the Bucca dinner, and with volunteer thank you gifts.

Second quarter receipts exceeded expenses by \$569.86. First Half (Jan-Jun) receipts exceeded expenses by \$996. Dues are \$920 short from the annual budget. If second half receipts follow 2020 we will just make the dues receipts as budgeted. Maps are currently \$449 below annual budget. If second half receipts follow 2020 we will exceed maps receipts by \$300! Patches already exceed annual budget. Our Trail is a big hit! Expenses for the quarter were very light as anticipated. There were no miscellaneous expenses. Miscellaneous expenses budgeted for the year, of \$1400 include \$500 for Door Prizes and Volunteer thank-you, yet to be expended.

With the robust balance in the account, ideas were proposed for meaningful ways to spend some of the money. One idea was to offer “mini grants” to one or more high school environmental clubs at a school that has a geographic connection to the Taconic Ridge (Berlin HS, New Lebanon HS, Williamstown HS). Karen offered to probe the idea with the schools’ Env. Club staff advisor to see if students would like to take on a research project related to the Crest Trail. This might be to assess and document “old growth” along a section of the trail, to study the geology through outcrops like the one near Berry Pond, to map the TCT watershed area, to do an ecological study of a segment of trail, to identify and tally ferns that grow along the trail, etc. The money could be used for transportation to the site, for sponsoring students going to regional environmental rallies or workshops like the Youth Climate Rally in Tupper Lake. THC would expect a report to be the product from the grant award. This idea will be explored more at the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP:

Currently there are 208 members, with new members signing up on a regular basis.

SOCIAL:

- It was decided to have a Fall Gathering on October 2, 2021 with a rain date on the 3rd, starting at 9:30 at Grafton Lakes State Park. As was done last year, it will start with an outdoor meeting, then a hike. People can bring lunch if desired and paddling is an option. Martha will put a notice in the next Newsletter.
- At the gathering there will be a drawing for Amazon gift cards and Walt Addicks will be acknowledged as the Volunteer of the Year and will receive a gift card of \$50 to EMS or L.L.Bean.
- The Club will host a member dinner on October 28, 2021 at Bucca de Beppo on Wolf Rd. in Albany from 5:00 to 7:00. Margaret Parks will contact Bucca to make a reservation for 30 people for that date for the larger room. The cost of the dinner, including tax and gratuity is \$41.52 pp. The Club will subsidize the dinner so each member will pay only \$20.00.
- The Board voted in favor of subsidizing the 10/28 dinner.
- This year's volunteer recognition gift will be reflective vests in blaze orange with Taconic Hiking Club Volunteer on the back. These will be useful for identifying THC workers on the trail and to wear during hunting season. Leslie will contact the company that did the hats, we have \$350 budgeted for the recognition gifts.

PUBLICITY:

- Martha felt some of the interest from new memberships could be the result social media posts by people that have hiked the trail. The most recent is YouTube videos put up by "AKD Woodswalker" that documents in video a 3-night backpack of the Crest Trail. Martha will send out the link to his YouTube channel.

TRAIL WORK:

- Dave Pisaneschi reported that James Grady is back doing trail work and signed the Volunteer Agreement. Jason Weaver of Pittsfield is offering to work, and Dave wants to assign him to help out with southern sections of the TCT. Cathy Keating is the new steward of the Prosser Hollow Trail.
- Dave wants to do outreach to volunteers and hopes to get more involved in the Berlin to Robinson Hollow section
- So far volunteers have done 162 hours of work on the trail and access trails.
- The UMP for the Taconic Region is due out from DEC sometime later this year or early next year.

OUTINGS:

- Martha said leaders were submitting outings now one, sometimes two months in advance, not three.
- It is hoped more leaders can be trained and could offer outings going forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

- THC will be partnering with DEC and GLSP to offer a day of training on HWA identification and reporting through IMap Invasives. Under the auspices of PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management), which is financially supported through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation via the Environmental Protection Fund and hosted by the Cornell Cooperative Extension, a classroom and outdoor session will be offered this October, either the 4th to 7th or the 18th to 21st at GLSP. Martha, Dave Pisaneschi, Walt Addicks, Karen Ross, Janice Nissen and Sue Jordan indicated interest. The class will fill at 20 participants.
- R.J. has past materials related to THC and wanted to offer them to someone if interested. The Board thought taking the photo album and displaying it—if there are good photos of known members--at the Fall Dinner would be a good idea.

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 15, 2021, AT 6:30 BY ZOOM