

Taconic Hiking Club Board Meeting

July 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Via Zoom

PRESENT: Martha Waldman, Karen Ross, Leslie Siegard, Margaret Parks, Michelle Filiault

ABSENT: David Pisaneschi, Sue Jordan

MINUTES: Minutes from the April 10, 2023 board meeting were accepted and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH JUNE, 2023:

First quarter receipts exceeded expenses by \$155.88. Membership renewals and applications have dropped off in the second quarter as expected. Dues are \$860 short of budget, but this should be recovered in the 4th quarter with renewals. Map income is roughly 1/2 of budget, and slightly behind this time last year. To date, 57% of map income is from stores. Last year, 64% was from stores. Patches receipts are very slow, I do not expect to meet patch income budgeted. We expect, and budgeted, maps and patches less than prior years as the trend has been declining. Expenses for the quarter were higher than anticipated, due to a miscellaneous item of \$202, covering 1/2 the lunch expense for the BTRCP meeting in May. Miscellaneous expense also includes the \$306.80 for the volunteer thank-you neck gaiters. Other expenses were anticipated.

The final cost of \$202 (previously approved \$179) for the BTRCP working group meeting lunch of May 8 was voted upon and approved.

MEMBERSHIP:

No significant change. It is a quiet time of year.

TRAIL WORK:

So far, we have a total of 434.30 hours of trail work. There's been a lull in trail work activity this summer due to the heat and humidity, which is the norm. Activity will pick up later this summer/fall when it cools off. The section from Mattison Hollow to Berlin Mountain needs work. And the section from Prosser Hollow to Snow Hole has extensive blowdown. These will be our next projects.

With the aid of the trail cam provided by the THC, Ranger Steve Jackson has been conducting surveillance activities on the northern section of the trail near Prosser Hollow regarding illegal ATV activity. We are awaiting Steve's suggestion regarding a lock for the trail cam which the Board approved. I will follow-up with Steve. Given the recent state land purchase, we may want to pursue better parking at Mattison Hollow.

PUBLICITY:

The club will have a table at the New Lebanon town picnic on 8/20/23.

OTHER BUSINESS:

On June 29, the Board unanimously approved, via email, the expense of up to \$100 for the purchase of trail camera locks and straps or cables to prevent the theft of the two trail cams. Dave will order and Steve Jackson will install.

Should the club reimburse people for Wilderness First Aid (WFA)? Courses will be offered in September, October, and November by LL Bean. Discussion was held. A vote was taken and it was approved to reimburse up to \$150 for the successful passing of a WFA course, subject to filing requirements, for active* hike leaders and trail stewards. This will be effective September 1. Filing requirements: Submit proof of passing the course (certificate) and proof of cost (paid receipt). These need to be submitted, preferably within 30 days, or by the end of the year at the latest.

*Active will be defined as leading at least 2 outings or submitting trail reports for at least 2 trail work outings on the section which they are responsible for within the calendar year. This can also include leading one outing and submitting one trail report. This was determined via email after the meeting was held.

SOCIAL:

Regarding the Fall Luncheon on November 5, 2023 at 12:00 noon at Muscatiello's: The menu options were discussed. The lunch will include portabella ravioli in red cream sauce, meatballs and sausage, chicken marsala, salad, bread, soda, iced tea, lemonade, coffee, tea, and a mini cannoli platter for dessert. There is a 19% administrative fee and an 8% sales tax. A gratuity is not included and is not needed. Price will be \$32.12 per person for at least 25 people. This will be partially subsidized by the club. The per person cost will be \$20. This information was voted upon and accepted. The speaker is still TBD. The club will cover dinner and gas for the speaker. The club will donate \$100 to the speaker's organization. A limit may be set for the price of gas. Karen presented several options and will reach out to Jane Winn, the Founding Executive Director of the Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT).

A save-the-date will be included in the next newsletter. Checks will be sent to Margaret. Lunch will be served at 12:30 (it must be served by 1:00), then Martha will speak and introduce the speaker. We have the room from 12:00-4:00 pm but expect to be done by 3:00.

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 30, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Filiault, Secretary