

Taconic Hiking Club Board Meeting

July 22, 2022, 6:30 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.

Via Zoom

PRESENT: Martha Waldman, Karen Ross, Leslie Siegard, Sue Jordan, Dave Pisaneschi, Margaret Parks, Christine Boucher

MINUTES:

Accepted and approved minutes from the March 10, 2022 board meeting, and the June 11, 2022 meeting/hike/picnic at Grafton Lakes SP.

TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022:

Year to date receipts exceeded expenses by \$638 despite the End-to-End expenses.

Though dues are \$800 short from the annual budget, they are \$120 ahead of June YTD last year. Membership shortfall from budget should be recovered in the fourth quarter. Map and Patches receipts are behind last year June YTD but may pick up in the fall.

Expenses for the 6 months ended June 30 were lower than anticipated. Picnic expense of \$128.25 reflects the pavilion rental for the June gathering. \$300 Annual meeting expense is the deposit at Moscatiello's. End to End expense of \$814.69 comprises operating expense of \$124 and 12 withdrawal refunds partially offset by 9 registrations. Accounting for all expenses from 2019 through the running of the event total costs for the End to End were \$262.46, netting the club \$887.54. Expenses were much lower than budgeted due to the elimination of items including the provision of breakfast, bag piper and thank-you gifts to the volunteers.

Misc. expense of \$446.13 is the annual club insurance.

The audit of the 2020 books was completed by Kirk Cornwell who confirmed by e-mail "In accordance with Article VI, Section 2, of the bylaws, I have examined the bank statements, check registers, membership receipts, billing and payments, and 2021 Budget and "Treasurer's Report" and found them to be accurate and complete. I can be contacted for further questions."

TRAIL WORK:

Trail Crews have logged in 438.4 hours for 2022 YTD compared to 506.50 hours for 2021.

Lots of work was done in the Spring in preparation for the End to End. Activity has fallen off this summer due to heat, humidity and people being away for summer vacations. This is normal. Activity will pick up in the Fall. One major project completed was the reroute of the section on the northern end of the trail just before the road crossing down to Route 346. This was done without the planking as originally planned.

Two outstanding projects:

In August, when Walt returns, Dave will schedule a site visit with Patrick (DEC Forester) and Walt to review the proposed planking on the northern side of the access road which goes down to Route 346. Once we have DEC approval, we can begin work. We will also have a cost estimate for Board approval.

THC may want to contribute to the cost of the planking; an email vote can be held on a later date.

Next week, Dave will plan a visit to flag a proposed reroute on the heavily ATV damaged section of the trail just south of Robinson Hollow. Again, Dave will schedule a site visit with Patrick. Once DEC approves and the weather is cooler, we'll reroute the trail.

Dave will work with DEC to use the ridge access road to transport the weedwhacker (heavy blade) to where it's needed.

Karen said Berry Pond to Tower Mtn needs string trimming work done. Dave will add the project to the trail work list and send an email to get a group over to do the work. Martha recommended that we pre-arrange a pass with the Pittsfield (MA) State Forest for the trimming date to avoid a \$20 parking fee for NYS residents.

MEMBERSHIP:

There are 249 members to date; 69 are brand new and 60 members did not renew from last year. Karen requested a list of those who have yet to renew for follow up.

SOCIAL:

A deposit of \$300 was made to the Moscatiello's restaurant in Troy, site of the THC's annual banquet to be held on Sunday November 6, 2022, from 12 to 4 PM. We will advertise the event in the September newsletter and request attendees' menu selections and payments by October at the latest. The board opted for the sit-down lunch over the buffet due to concerns about the Covid-19 virus lingering into the Fall. The sit-down price of \$37.26 is good for a 30-guest minimum; we must confirm the head count two days before the event (November 4). Attendee price will be \$20 per person with THC to subsidize the balance. The board selected Salmon Florentine and Chicken Parmigiana for the lunch menu.

THC hopes to hold this event as planned, but if there is a resurgence of the Covid-19 virus we are prepared to cancel the annual banquet and forfeit the non-refundable deposit to the restaurant.

OUTINGS:

Submit outings to Martha by 7/28 or 7/29 a.m. for the newsletter. We are hoping August brings cooler, wetter weather.

PUBLICITY:

Karen will set up a publicity table to promote the Club at the Town of New Lebanon picnic to be held on August 21st from 12 to 4 PM. This is mostly a local event; if needed, the THC board can lend a hand. THC may do some publicity outreach at county fairs and local festivals.

OTHER BUSINESS

End to End Wrap-up:

Each End-to-End event is a learning experience and 2022 was no exception. The pace of the participants was much faster than those in previous Challenges. The sweeps coming up from Madden Rd arrived an hour after the last hiker had left Mattison Hollow which delayed the sweeps leaving Mattison Hollow. Four runners went through Madden Rd and Mattison Hollow before the sweeps were in place. In the future sweeps should be at the check points earlier than previously scheduled and we must devise a way for hike participants to check in when they have passed each water stop if the sweeps are not yet present.

Although Martha will not be coordinating the next End-to-End event or managing Eventbrite and communications to participants, she will take on other tasks such as obtaining the permit from DEC, contacting the Pittsfield State Forest to schedule the event, as well as sharing the 2022 Eventbrite and website text documents for use as templates.

THC will make a list of people who could manage the coordination of the next End-to-End event (May of 2024); note that the End-to-End coordinator needs to be in place in 2023. We are looking for a tech-savvy, dedicated person who wants to contribute to the THC.

Letter of Support:

Jim Bonesteel of the RPA asked if the THC would submit a letter of support for a grant they are applying for. It is to provide a parking area, boardwalk and viewing platform at the new Gutierrez Family Forest. The Board approved the request via an email vote on 4/5/22.

NOMINATIONS:

The slate of nominees for 2023 THC officers is:

Martha Waldman	for President
Karen Ross	Vice President
Leslie Siegard	Treasurer
Open	Secretary

A nominating committee will be formed to find a Secretary as Christine Boucher declined to continue in the position. (She was filling in temporarily.) Election of the 2023 officers will be held during the THC annual banquet at Moscatiello's on November 6, 2022, or via email ballot.

Volunteers continuing their Coordinator roles for 2023 include: Sue Jordan for Membership; Dave Pisaneschi for Trails; and Margaret Parks for Social.

NEXT MEETING: Monday October 17, 2022, via Zoom.

On the agenda: Finalize the annual banquet details.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Boucher