



**2019 Annual Voting Members Meeting
MINUTES**

Sunday, November 17th

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

At the Darlington Schoolhouse, 600 Ramapo Valley Road, Mahwah, NJ

In attendance:

Beth Ravit	Jane Daniels
Eddie Saiff	Pete Heckler
Robert Jonas	Lanny Wexler
Estelle Anderson	Matt Decker
David DeShazer	Daniel Chazin
Patsy Wooters	Hanna Benesch
Charlie Gadol	Ron Rosen
Suse Bell	Jack Driller
Andy Garrison	Ken Posner
John Mack	Jim Piombino
Richard Jobsky	Sharon Sim
Walter Daniels	Pat Malodobry
Kevin Bukowski	Matthew Sedita
Sue Schur	Doug Sohn
Andy Benesch	George O'Lear
Rob Lehmann	Bill Gannett
Sue Barbuto	

Welcome & Introductions: Josh Howard welcomed the Voting Members and thanked them for such a great turnout.

Approval of November 3, 2018 meeting minutes: Walt Daniels made a motion, seconded by Doug Sohn, to approve the November meeting minutes. All were in favor.

Board of Directors/At-Large Voting Member Nominations: Josh Howard introduced the Board of Director nominations. David Felsenthal will be replacing Dan Hoberman as the new Board Counsel. Patsy Wooters and Ned Whitney will renew their terms as Board Vice Chair and Board member for 2020. Pete Heckler made a motion, seconded by Walt Daniels, to approve the nominations. All were in favor.

New Club Members: Mr. Howard introduced the new member clubs of 2019. The full list of new member clubs includes: Dyke Hikes, Hike the World, Pine Hill Community Center, Sassquad Trail Running, Take a Hike NJ, Troop 1 Mount Kisco, Warren County Board of Recreation Commissioners, Westchester Mountain Bike Association. Mr.

Howard is excited for them to join us and invites all member clubs and volunteers to our next annual voting members meeting on April 26th. Date and time are tentative.

Treasurer's and Executive Director's Report: Mr. Howard presented a brief summary of the budget. He states that the board is committed to improving the budget and the 2019 progress is moving along much better than expected and in a positive direction. Josh mentioned the efforts of the Sustainability Task Force and their mission-driven efforts to improve our finances and support our programs. Mr. Howard reported on the challenges we faced in 2019 with a reorganization of staff. Mr. Howard thanked the volunteers for their commitment and dedication to the Trail Conference. Through the combined efforts from staff and volunteers the Trail Conference was able to fill the cracks and contribute as a team to a successful 2019.

Mr. Howard presented an update on the organization. He reported on our new Westchester maps being released shortly. This is our first new map set since 2011. We are continuing to produce high quality maps the public expects. In addition, the number of volunteers is continuing to increase, and we anticipate larger numbers than the previous year. This year we formalized our Trail Angel Society program and in less than 8 months we have over 50 members.

Lastly, Mr. Howard reported on our Centennial Campaign. The Trail Conference is celebrating its 100th anniversary and the Bear Mountain Inn is reserved for our Gala next year. Jane Daniels and the publications committee is working on creating a book of the Trail Conference history. Mr. Howard hopes to plan two events every month starting in October to kick off the centennial campaign.

Trail Conference Video: Mr. Howard presented two videos highlighting both existing and new programs at the Trail Conference. The first video was a highlight of the Steward Program. The second video introduced our Conservation Detection Dog Program.

New Business: Responding to a few questions on the Steward Program, Mr. Howard gave a brief summary. The Ashokan Rail Trail Stewards are in full action with over 50 volunteers working 7 days a week. We are also currently working with Ulster County Department to train stewards. Croton Aqueduct residents pulled together money to support stewards in the upcoming season.

Ron Rosen addressed new business with the AT vista for 2021. The date is expected to be August 6, 2021 through August 9, 2021 at State University of New York at New Paltz. This weekend will include hikes, workshops, excursions, exhibits, fun and entertainment and celebrations. They are looking for additional volunteers that could help with this effort and interested individuals are directed to their website for further information.

To conclude the meeting, there was a request for items to include in the two new display cabinets at the Trail Conference Headquarters in the Darlington Schoolhouse. Memorabilia could include New York and New Jersey items, group pictures, old trail signs, ski poles, etc. All inquires can be submitted to Robert Jonas, ynoke70@gmail.com, or Kathleen Bezik, kbezik@nynjtc.org .

Seeing no other business, the meeting was adjourned. All were in favor.

Recorded by Kathleen Bezik.