

Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club

Minutes of the Oct. 10, 2017 Board Meeting

Present were: Jim Stickney, Gary LaBelle, Dawn Warden, Nancy Kurtz, Gail Brossman, Karen Balaban, Rob Shaw, Mark Press and Tim Younes.

The meeting was opened with a minute of silence for Thyra Sperry.

Secretary's Report: Jim reminded the secretary to get the minutes out within 2 weeks of the meeting for approval. Tim was left off of the attendees for the July meeting so he will be added. The minutes were then approved by Mark and seconded by Gary. Gail then reported on the totals for the Volunteer Form that gets turned in to the ATC. 56 people volunteered in these capacities: 825 field hours, 244 travel hours and 971.5 hours for AT hikes, public relations, board meetings, attending ATC meetings, etc.

Treasurer's Report: \$2,602.19 in the checking account with an available balance of \$2487.48. The books were recently reconciled. Gary will be ordering patches because we are almost out.

Finance Report: We need to ask Vanguard to switch out account from investor shares to admiral shares. Karen also wants people to be reminded that if they work for or belong to an organization that will donate matching funds to keep the club in mind. We recently have gotten several donations this way. Mark will write up an article about this for the Bushwack.

Hospitality: Dawn reported that 40 people were at the picnic on July 25. Thank you all for the great food!

Membership: Nancy reported that we have 322 members. 235 are annual members and 87 are life. This is 11 less than last year. She also reported on the Survey Monkey that she and Tim sent out to non-renewing members. They had an 11% reply rate. Improvements that we might make based on the responses are: for Cindy to put a reminder in Trail Mail at the end of the hike list that if you want to see the schedule further ahead, to look at the Bushwack or the website, give more pointers for new hikers, lead more 'introductory level' hikes. We then discussed renewal reminders- sending them out in April or May. We are hoping that with the new website offering renewals online that it will be easier for people. We didn't decide if we will add the extra cost of online transactions to the person's total or not.

Program: Jim reported that Anna Yelk, director of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, will be our speaker. The meeting will be held at the Linglestown Giant with social time at 6:30 and the meeting at 7:00.

Publicity: see report. And thank you to Gary who repaired the tent and to Gail for sewing the rips in the carrying bag.

Webmaster: no report.

Website Committee: Cindy, Tim, Gary and Rob met. We will be setting up a new website by March 2018, in time for people to renew their membership online. There will be a log-in page for members to do this. The committee will be meeting again before the end of October. In January, the rough cut will be presented at the board meeting.

Old Business:

Promotional Items: One idea for a promotional item was shown. It was a light weight shirt from LL Bean that would have the club name above the pocket. People wondered if the same thing could be printed on other items with the same set up cost. Gail will look into that.

Hazard Tree Removal: no report.

New Business:

The holiday party will be Saturday Dec. 9, at the Bent Creek Community room – same as last year. Jim is hoping to have the same musicians and a slide show of club activities.

Banquet: Jim is stepping down from heading up the Banquet. After some discussion we decided to go back to an evening event on March 23. Mark was going to research a couple of locations, Nancy a different location and Gail is going to price using a caterer at Bent Creek.

2018-2019 Dues – The board recommends that the dues stay the same. Rob made the motion and Mark seconded it.

The board also requested the Treasurer and Finance committee to meet and work on the budget for next year. This will be presented at the January meeting. Mark made the motion and Tim seconded.

Nominating Committee: This will be made up of Cindy, Nancy and Rob, who will be the chair.

Gift in Memory of Thyra Sperry: The board voted to donate \$250 dollars to the ATC's Land Conservation Initiative. In addition, members will be asked if they would like to further this amount. Rob made the motion and Nancy seconded.

Oct 26 is the General Membership meeting at the Linglestown Giant. 6:30 social and 7:00 meeting

Dec. 9 is the Holiday Party.

January 9, 2018 is the next board meeting at the Linglestown Giant at 6 pm.