

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
of the
NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY TRAIL CONFERENCE

October 5, 2013

1. Chris Connolly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. at the Sensequa Lodge at Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

2. Minutes. The minutes of the June 9, 2013 Delegates' meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer's Report. In the absence of Jim Gregoire, Treasurer, who had just completed his Hike Across the Nation, Ed Goodell introduced Melissa Bean, who provided a financial report.

Melissa Bean reported that the Trail Conference's Form 990 for the fiscal year 2012 was approved by the Board at their July meeting and has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service. She stated that the Trail Conference's net income for 2012 was \$1,231,000.

Melissa Bean reported that, for the fiscal year 2013 to date (through August 31st), unrestricted income is well below budget, most likely reflecting the effect of the Capital Campaign for the Darlington Schoolhouse on unrestricted giving. She also reported that restricted donations are \$390,000 below budget, and she pointed out that two-thirds of the restricted donations that we have received are contributions for the Darlington Schoolhouse campaign, where most gifts have been pledges rather than cash. Despite this, she stated, "hard pledge" income is running about \$135,000 below budget. Melissa Bean also reported that, for the year 2013 to date, Membership income is 8% below budget and Publications income is 10% below budget.

Melissa Bean reported that, for the fiscal year 2013 to date, Architectural and Construction expense is \$165,000 below budget, reflecting the pace of construction activity at the Darlington School. She noted that Trail Development costs are \$94,000 above budget, primarily because due to increased work on the Bear Mountain Upper East Face project and the Sterling Forest Back Country Trails program.

Melissa Bean stated that, for the fiscal year 2013 to date, Net Operating Income is \$203,836, only about one-third of the budgeted \$552,264. She stated that this shortfall is mostly in the Capital Campaign and the impact of that on unrestricted giving. She also stated that if Investment Income, Unrealized Investment Gains, and

Legacy Fund Contributions are included, the Trail Conference's net income for the year to date would be \$338,306.

4. Report of Executive Director. Ed Goodell reported that, during the past year, we recorded 70,000 hours of volunteer work on behalf of the Trail Conference. He noted that not all volunteers report their hours, so the actual total is actually greater than this.

With regard to the Darlington Schoolhouse, Ed Goodell reported that we are very close to raising \$1 million to meet the \$500,000 challenge grant of the Bolger Foundation, with the result that we will have raised the \$2.5 million needed to proceed with the construction of the renovations to the Darlington Schoolhouse. He stated that bids for construction will be received in about two weeks, and that if a contract for construction is approved by the Board at its October meeting, it is possible that the concrete foundation for the new addition could be poured before winter and that the renovations could be completed by the end of 2014.

With regard to publications, Ed Goodell reported that the new *Hike of the Week* book by Daniel Chazin is almost ready to be sent to the printer, and that new editions of *Hiking Long Island* and *Walkable Westchester*, as well as the new *Circuit Hikes in Harriman* book by Don Weise, are scheduled to be printed in 2014. He noted that Trail Conference maps are now available for download onto mobile phones and other electronic devices and that sales of these downloads have been very strong. Finally, he announced that two of our books - *Harriman Trails* and *Iron Mine Trails* (the latter of which is out-of-print in hard copy) - are now available as e-books.

He pointed out that the Conservation Committee, which oversees the Trail Conference's role in the preservation of trail lands, is looking for new members and a new chair.

5. New Member Clubs. Chris Connolly reported that the following three groups have applied for membership in the Trail Conference: Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Union County Department of Parks and Community Renewal, and Sierra Club-Atlantic Chapter. He noted that it is becoming more common for parks and "friends" groups, rather than traditional hiking clubs, to apply for membership in the Trail Conference. It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the application of these three clubs to join the Trail Conference be approved, with one abstention.

6. Elections for Board of Directors and Delegates-at-Large. Chris Connolly provided the following report:

a. Board of Directors. He reported that the Nominating Committee has nominated the following six persons for three-year terms as members of the Board of Directors: Daniel Chazin, Charlotte Fahn, Daniel Hoberman, Richard Katzive, Ned Whitney and Patsy Wooters. He noted that, pursuant to the by-laws changes adopted by the Delegates at the June meeting, the terms of these Board members will begin on January 1, 2014. The two new Board nominees, Ned Whitney and Patsy Wooters, explained to the Delegates their backgrounds and their reasons for choosing to serve on the Board. No other candidates having been nominated and the number of Board candidates being equal to the number of seats up for election, the six-person Board of Directors slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was proclaimed to be elected.

b. Delegates-at-Large. He announced that the Nominating Committee had nominated the following 25 persons for one-year terms as Delegates-at-Large: Susan Barbuto, Norman Blumenstein, Jane Daniels, Allyn Dodd, Jack Driller, Harvey Fishman, Bob Fuller, Jill Hamell, Pete Heckler, John Jurasek, Rob Lehman, Mark Liss, Alice Luddington-Cantor, Paul Makus, Steven Marano, Mary Anne Massey, George Petty, Karen Rose, Ruth Rosenthal, Mellonie Sanborn, Frank Schoof, Arnold Seymour-Jones, Douglas Sohn, Nancy Tollefson and Robert Ward. No other candidates having been nominated and the number of Delegate-at-Large candidates being equal to the number of seats up for election, the 25-person Delegate-at-Large slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was proclaimed to be elected.

c. Appointment to Fill Vacancy on Board. He noted that Suzan Gordon has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board created by the resignation of Anne Osborn. This appointment was unanimously ratified by the Delegates.

7. New Business. In response to a question by Jill Hamell, Chris Connolly stated that, since the recent by-law change that lowers the quorum requirement for Delegates' meetings was passed, we no longer have a problem in obtaining a quorum at Delegates' meetings.

8. Award Presentations. The following awards were presented:

William Hoeflerlin Award	- Mark Liss
William Hoeflerlin Award	- Frank Keech
William Hoeflerlin Award	- Ron Luna
William Hoeflerlin Award	- Doug Senterman
Ken Lloyd Award	- Herb Hochberg
Leo Rothschild Conservation Award	- Seth McKee

9. Honorary Life Memberships. It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the following persons be awarded Honorary Life Membership in the Trail Conference (which includes the right to vote at Delegates' meetings) in recognition of their many years of devoted service to the Conference: Jack Shuart, Bob Jonas, Estelle Anderson and Joan James. Joan James (the only one of the four who was present at the meeting) was presented with a Honorary Life Membership certificate.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel D. Chazin
Secretary

ATTENDANCE:

Voting Delegates:

Eugene Burke	- Sundance Outdoor Adventure Society
Carolyn Canfield	- Interstate Hiking Club
Daniel D. Chazin	- Board Secretary
Chris Connolly	- Board Chair
Jane Daniels	- Delegate-at-Large
Walt Daniels	- Board Member
Salley Decker	- ADK - Mid-Hudson Chapter
Jack Driller	- AMC - New York-North Jersey Chapter
Charlotte Fahn	- Board Member
Mark Fromm	- Hackensack River Greenway
Andy Garrison	- Co-Chair, Long Path Committee
Stella Green	- Honorary Life Member
John Gunzler	- Chair, Nominating Committee
Jill Hamell	- Delegate-at-Large
Gary Haugland	- Chair, Trails Council
Gaylord Holmes	- Board Member
John Jurasek	- Delegate-at-Large
Dick Katzive	- Board Member
Rick Levine	- Board Member
Mark Liss	- Delegate-at-Large
John Mack	- West Hudson South Trails Chair

Gail Neffinger - Orange/Rockland A.T. Management Committee Chair
George Petty - Delegate-at-Large
Ruth Rosenthal - Delegate-at-Large
Victor Scelzo - Urban Trail Conference
Frank Schoof - Delegate-at-Large
Karen Schoof - Chair, North Jersey Trails
Doug Senterman - Catskill Leanto Trail Chair
Dan Van Engel - Board Member
Ed Walsh - Long Path North Hiking Club
Bob Ward - Delegate-at-Large
Patricia Wooters - Delegate-at-Large
H. Neil Zimmerman - Honorary Life Member