

FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP
September 16, 2023 4:00 pm
Seneca Events Center - Watkins Glen, NY



Status: FINAL

Attending: Barbara Lobb, John Schmitt, Laurel Newman, David Newman, Christine Gregoire, Roger Hopkins, John Anderson, Christine DeGolyer, Nancy Wilbur, Tim Wilbur, Rhonda Paterson, David Newlun, Kim Meacham, Terry Meacham, Jo Taylor, Malia Popovich, Willa Powell, Peter Wybron, Debra Nero, Peter Gradoni, Erin Potter, Colin Parrish, Pat Monahan, Scott Geiger, Lori Chiarilli

CALL TO ORDER at 4:04 pm—President, Pat Monahan
MOTION TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE ANNUAL MEETING
1st Meacham, 2nd Wybron >>**Approved**

WELCOME/OPENING COMMENTS — Pat Monahan

- Thank you for attending the annual meeting
- Beautiful weather and a great setting to gather
- Thank you to our event organizers that worked so hard to make this weekend a reality

APPROVAL OF 2022 MINUTES—Secretary, Lori Chiarilli

- No discussion or additions

1st Meacham, 2nd Holahan >>**Approved**

INTRODUCTION OF CURRENT, OUTGOING, AND NOMINATED NEW BOARD MEMBERS—Pat Monahan

- Acknowledgement of current board and leadership past and present during today's meeting
- Thank you to Class of 2023 Board of Manager members completing their terms - Donna Flood, Sharon Ray and Willa Powell
- Returning in a new term as part of the Class of 2026: Willa Powell, plus 2 new additions: Josh Balisteri and Colin Parrish.
- Thankful for the many contributions that our board of members provides to the organization

VOTE ON BOARD MEMBERS PLACED IN NOMINATION

The 3 nominees moving forward this year: Josh Balisteri, Colin Parrish and Willa Powell

- In-person voting: all in favor - no opposition
- Combined ballot tally: 302 for, 2 against with 10 incomplete ballots

Motion to approve the slate of candidates for the Class of 2026 Board of Managers: Meacham, 2nd Wybron >>**Approved**

REPORT OF FINANCIAL STATUS OF FLTC

CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION AND FUND BALANCES —Treasurer Willa Powell

- \$1.95 in interest on our CDs (note: limitation in restricted funds and returns for \$8k)
- Savings account “Funds” total value \$31K ; we’re able to draw upon as needed when criteria is met
- Karpus fund (Sidote and Endowment) - \$1.3M (we do not touch the principal)
 - Upcoming Sidote purchase for key parcel coming up
 - Following the quarter end: we will split this into 2 distinct funds for improved tracking
- Checking account balance - \$41K; revenue and expenses have been fairly equal/steady
 - we do have a couple gifts that are in the checking account pending fiscal year end transfers

GENERAL COMMENTS ON FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES — Willa Powell on behalf of VP of Finance Lisa Barrett and Interim Executive Director Deb Nero

The Finance Committee continues to meet virtually via Zoom on the second Monday of each month to:

- Review monthly financial statements including comparing budgeted results to actual results:
 - Expenses continue to track close to budget, but revenues are still falling short of what was projected for 2023
- Review Finance Committee Policy & Procedures (FCPP) to make sure that operations match with actual practices of the organization
 - Any revisions deemed necessary are brought to the Board of Managers for review and approval
- Monitor office procedures to make sure an appropriate system of checks and balances is in place and monitored (i.e. review of checks written: appropriate documented approval, accurate recording into our accounting system, and timely processing)
- Reminder: please be sure to keep track of the valuable hours you spend on behalf of the FLTC during the year. Total combined volunteer hours are an important piece of information for the FLTC. Thank you for all you do for the FLTC.

Trail Preservation Updates - Newman

- Sidote Trail Fund – well-funded by members and friends through donations and bequests
- Look for an exciting announcement in our next News issue: we’ll be buying a Town of Urbana parcel that guarantees continued trail access and helps us avoid road walk. And thanks to Steve Catherman for noting the sale/purchase opportunity.
- Status updates for other preservation projects:
 - 2017 White-Church Road key link property (subdivided the kept 60+ acres with the intent to sell back to the state); board accepted the purchase offer. Still has not closed due to long processing timeline with the state purchasing process
 - Lincklaen Chenango County still on the state acquisition list; Cayuga, ADK Onondaga & Bullthistle clubs have made incredible contributions to new/rebuild of the corresponding trail
- Reminder: If you identify a key parcel/link across the trail - we have funds to purchase, add an easement and generally resell the property back to the tax roll - please share potential opportunities and consider donating to the Sidote Fund so that we may continue to preserve our trail

REPORT OF BOARD ACTIVITY—President Pat Monahan

- Staffing changes of note
 - Vacated positions: Christy Post (Coordinator of Marketing and Communications) and Michaela Aney (Coordinator of Trail development)
 - New part time positions: Erin Potter (trailside support), Morgan (marketing and communications) and Kain McCall (office clerk)
 - Upcoming vacancy for Executive Director(ED) position: after Deb Nero has filled the gap in an interim capacity over the last 2.5 years; the position is currently posted and we've sought a 2-year PTNY grant to help us support a full-time position
 - Without grant support, we'll need to determine a plan-B in alignment with our financial resources
 - Our 2 previous ED's worked part-time at a limited salary, while giving the organization full time work/support
- Our last board retreat included discussions of operations and governance roles within the organization and how to continue to move the organization forward in a sustainable fashion
- Areas of concern
 - top level leadership vacancies - ED position as noted; plus several key VP vacancies in our current model
 - President role - 15 years as the president looking to focus energies on some different commitments in the future; as I support the transition of a new ED to continue to move the organization forward
 - financial status - we're paying our bills, and on time; but as a non-profit organization, we are aging out and the new generation is looking for new types of experiences and we need their financial support too
 - growth - to meet the needs of our current members and push to grow with new membership and financial opportunities

REPORT OF FLTC Activities and Accomplishments— Interim Executive Director Deb Nero

- Income from membership and map sales is down; and will need to be addressed with the new ED; also looking for some new ideas and additional experience with fundraising/development
- County Hike Series remains popular/well-attended - would be nice to find additional volunteer leadership to support the FLTC
- Fall Weekend 2024 will be tied to the end of county hike series
- Appreciate volunteers/maintainers, landowners – one-day trail events (2 days/different weekends and venues to accommodate access)
 - Next year venues will include: Hammondsport and Bainbridge; open to future venues
 - Would like to continue to grow these events

Closing Statements - Monahan

- Looking at people attending today, everyone has given so much to support to the trails and the FLTC
- Help us one more time look toward the future and help recruit our next generation of volunteers for the following roles:
 - those with an interest/background in finance

- Exec VP President (happy to mentor interested applications)
- Trail maintainers/sponsors
- Volunteer coordination
- Digital experience (i.e. IT)
- Mapping

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

- Colin Parrish: there's been a small group working on fundraising/development. You may have noticed both a spring and fall appeal this last year. We hoped to connect with folks in the spring as they're getting back out on/thinking about the trail. This group and additional volunteers will be looking at what you value about the trail/experience and which ways are meaningful to you in support of it. Plus expanding our support base to potentially include: major donors, government, tourism, and other sources.
- Tim Wilbur:
 - picking up on meaningful ways to support the trail/organization, propose and would support a patch for Trail Ambassadors
 - Do VPS and Chairs have their own operating budget? Yes—requests are a regular part of building the annual budget. Trail maintainers are our boots on the ground that usually know of needs and potential problems first. Would be great to have a “bridal registry” list idea to see if someone wants to fund unmet needs/projects.
 - Deb Nero: request for items are projected/included in overall annual budget process; we recommend going through your regional trail coordinator (RTC) to submit requests
 - Colin Parrish: these are the types of ideas that the development group will be looking for

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT at 5:00 pm

1st Nero, 2nd Meacham >>**Approved**

“The mission of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference is to build, maintain, enhance, and promote a continuous footpath across New York State for the enjoyment and health of residents and visitors. Forever!”