

FINGER LAKES TRAIL CONFERENCE  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP  
September 21, 2024 4:00 p.m.  
Hickory Hill Campgrounds - Bath, NY



**Status: DRAFT**

Attending: Cathy Ackerson, Ann Bayley, Steve Black, Lori Chiarilli, Bob Cooper, Maria Cooper, Mike Cunningham, Gail Davis, Jim Davis, Christine De Golyer, Jennifer Grande, Nathan Hayes, Roger Hopkins, Deb Johnson, Bob Kremens, Anthony Kurdziel, Laurie Kurdziel, Ryan Levering, Aidan Markham, Kain McCall, Terry Meacham, April Miller, Pat Monahan, Deb Nero, David Newman, Laurel Newman, Carl P, Erin Potter, Willa Powell, Chris Proulx, Steven Rich, John Schmitt, Sigi Schwinge, Sarah Stackhouse, Jo Taylor, John Underhill, Nancey Wilbur, Tim Wilbur, Carrie Williams, Peter Wybron

CALL TO ORDER at 4:00 pm—President, Pat Monahan

MOTION TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE ANNUAL MEETING

1<sup>st</sup> Meacham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Schwinge >>**Approved**

**WELCOME/OPENING COMMENTS—President, Pat Monahan**

- Thank you for attending the annual meeting; this will be my last meeting
- Beautiful weather and a great setting to gather
- Thank you to our event organizers who worked so hard to make this weekend a reality

**APPROVAL OF 2023 MINUTES—Secretary, Lori Chiarilli**

- No discussion or additions

1<sup>st</sup> Bayley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wybron >>**Approved**

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

- Acknowledgment of current board and leadership past and present during today's meeting
- Thank you to Class of 2024 Board of Manager members completing their terms – Ann Bayley, Lisette Brennan, Chris De Golyer, Tim Holahan, Terry Meacham
- Returning in a new term as part of the Class of 2027: Lori Chiarilli, Diane Fulkerson, Dave Newman
- Thankful for the many contributions that our board of managers and membership provide to the organization

**VOTE ON BOARD MEMBERS PLACED IN NOMINATION**

The 3 nominees moving forward this year: Lori Chiarilli, Diane Fulkerson, and Dave Newman

- In-person voting: 11 in favor - no opposition
- Combined ballot tally: 80 for, 0 against with 0 incomplete ballots

Motion to approve the slate of candidates for the Class of 2027 Board of Managers:

1<sup>st</sup> Nero, 2<sup>nd</sup> Proulx >>**Approved**

## Summary and Vote on Proposed By Laws Changes —Pat Monahan

- Small changes to the bylaws to support organizational changes; and build towards stronger organizational continuity
- Board members are able to serve up to 3 terms as/if needed to support continuity (term lengths are 3 years as they have been previously)
- Reduce the number of board seats from 15 to 12 – smaller, stronger class participation
- Officers will be drawn from board members
- VPs will be non-voting members of the board; but will be responsible for their areas of expertise and shaping the board's work
- Some grammatical changes and numbering changes were also applied; we did have a request from one person to see tracked changes
- Executive committee membership: President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer, CFO/VP of Finance, Secretary, and a member at large from the board – so a smaller subset than previously to facilitate timely response on emergent issues when/if they arise
- VPs will become non-executive officers leading the operational efforts of the organization; always welcome, but not required to attend regular board meetings
- Elections of officers: non-executive VP positions do not require a board role; although they are not precluded from holding a board of managers seat
- Quorum will now be a simple majority for board actions

### Vote tally/count:

- In-person voting: 20 in favor - no opposition
- Combined ballot tally: 106 for, 0 against with 4 incomplete ballots

1<sup>st</sup> Schwinge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Meacham >>**Approved**

### Additional Discussion Topics:

- Bayley: clarify what majority is
- Hopkins: is there a financial limit for executive committee decisions?
  - Monahan: no, but important to note, that land purchases require board approval
- Cooper, Bob: how to protect against inside politics with the shift to separate operations and governance

## REPORT OF FINANCIAL STATUS OF FLTC

- Aug 31 checking balance: \$83,975.85\* as of September 16, 2024
  - \*temporarily includes \$12,500.33 Sidote Fund donation deposit – not for operational use
- Savings (which includes Temporarily Restricted Funds): \$29, 674.28
- Cash assets (petty cash, PayPal, and Stripe balances): \$83,351.26
- Karpus accounts –Sidote \$1,054,282.44 and Endowment \$469,018.25 as of June 30, 2024
- Board of Managers draw authorized during the last adopted budget of \$19,771.00 – completed in September following our FCPP guideline #14
- CD balances are as follows:
  - Audrey Jones Memorial Fund: \$3,112
  - Ervin Markert Memorial Fund: \$1,000
  - Edward A Willis Memorial Fund: \$4,500
  - Newly reported CD interest of \$1.93\*

- \*Our CD terms are changing, so no interest reporting for the balance of 2024
- Acknowledgment of the finance committee's on-going work

## REPORT OF BOARD ACTIVITY—Monahan

- 1962 origins and changes to ensure organizational success and continuity while honoring our origins
- Initially focused on hikers; these days we have more types of trail users beyond hikers
- Board members these days have brought specialized knowledge as we've grown
- The governance side is slightly smaller, and continues to be reliant on officers/non-executive positions to guide our work
- Talk about vision/next steps – how to operationalize
- New again: VP for Marketing and Membership (again) – Tim Holahan; CFO/VP of Finance – open position to oversee our finances and run the Finance Committee (Chris Proulx has been filling in the interim) we need someone to keep us on track with both our finances and policies – please reach out to Nathan or Chris or call the office
- VP of Trail Preservation – Dave continues in his role
- VP of Trail Maintenance – John Schmitt
- Development – a new initiative, Colin Parish – guiding our efforts to develop financial support for the organization
- On-going committee collaboration to benefit the organization
- More than IT, now Digital Experience led by Scott Geiger
- Volunteer-based organization, we need to continue to grow our support base; Deb Nero stepping up in this new role – VP of Volunteers
- Trail preservation remains a critical component of our efforts (landowner changes have provided several challenges; need to address and create more permanent trail easements) – to preserve our efforts and the trail user experience
- Sidote is at \$1M currently; the challenge to get us to \$5M to ensure we have the means to address opportunity – besides time, talent, please consider financial support to ensure trail preservation

Special Motion to recognize Pat Monahan's lengthy service to the FLTC:

1<sup>st</sup> Proulx, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nero >>**Approved unanimously**

## REPORT OF FLTC Activities and Accomplishments—Executive Director, Nathan Hayes

- 6 months in my new role; such a welcoming organization; leadership, compassion, and dedication to the job shared by Pat have been especially appreciated
- Also thank you to trail users and supporters, officers/volunteers for also being so welcoming and supportive
- Educational/work experience – from WVA to Middlesex; last role as Director of Nature Center in Cummings from the Rochester Museum; previous positions and interests have helped me develop an interest in the interactive/intersection with nature – and building a community around those experiences
- Love trails and how they connect and improve the communities; time on trails makes us better – a special, beneficial experience that I want to share with others
- Last 6 months learning and understanding the organization; trail preservation efforts and developing a formalizing a strategy to ensure access/experience for future generations

- Improve user experience in areas on and off the trail (make things easy, accessible, positive experiences)
- Building more community via new programming; building partnerships to help each in our communities; financial support initiatives
- Enjoy meeting members and learning and hearing conversations and stories; they are so important to share with others
- Thank you to everyone who makes the FLTC the organization that it is

### Introduction of Chris Proulx - Monahan

- Looking forward to working with the organization and membership moving forward

### QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

- Do we have emails on file for all/most of our members
- Maintenance of our membership
- Grant efforts/applications

### **MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT at 5:00 pm**

1<sup>st</sup> Meacham, 2<sup>nd</sup> Scwhinge >>**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!"*