

*Finger Lakes Trail Conference
Annual Membership Meeting final minutes
May 21, 2011
Cazenovia College, Cazenovia, NY*

MEMBERS PRESENT: See attendance sheet in FLTC Office

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Cate Concannon, Roger Hopkins, Jon Bowen, John A-X Morris, Phil Dankert, Phil Metzgar, David Drumm, Sigi Swinge, Pat Haynes,

OFFICERS PRESENT: Pat Monahan, Roy Dando, Ron Navik, Jacqui Wensich, Peter Wybron, Lynda Rummel, Quinn Wright.

STAFF PRESENT: Gene Bavis

BOARD MEMBERS/OFFICERS ABSENT: Jarret Lobb, Donna Flood, Gail Merian, Ken Reek, Steve Catherman.

A motion was made to open the meeting by Lynda Rummel. Sigi Schwinge seconded the motion and the meeting was called to order at 3:00PM.

Opening Comments – President, Pat Monahan:

Pat thanked Jon Bowen and the ADK Onondaga chapter for organizing this fine event we call Spring Weekend. Pat also mentioned that since the 2010 annual meeting lots of great things have been going on.

Review and Approval of 2010 Minutes – Secretary, Roy Dando

Copies of the 2010 minutes were made available to anyone in attendance. No comments were pending. Pat Haynes moved to suspend reading of the 2010 annual minutes, and to accept the minutes as presented. Dave Drum seconded the motion and the minutes became final.

Introduction of Current, Outgoing and Nominated New Board Members – President, Pat Monahan

Today the membership, through absentee proxy or voice vote, will choose the incoming Board Class of 2014. Two members of the outgoing Class of 2011, Sigi Schwinge and Jon Bowen agreed to serve another term. Due to the bylaws, Bill Coffin and Terry Meacham will not be returning. Pat introduced the current Board members and the incoming members, Donna Cole, Scott Bahantka and Melanie Okoniewski.

Gene received 288 proxy votes in favor of the above nominees, 2 in opposition and 31 left blank

Welcome to the class of 2014.

Pat summarized this proposed change to the by laws: The IT committee should become a standing committee versus the Ad Hoc status it now has.

Gene Bavis motioned to accept this change, Ron Navik seconded and the change was voted into effect.

Report of Financial Status of the Finger Lakes Trail Conference – Treasurer, Peter Wybron: See Written Report

*Peter said that the year ending December 31, 2010 was a financially successful one for the FLTC.

*The independent accounting firm of Freed, Maxik & Battaglia reviewed the conference financial statements and gave them a favorable rating.

*Peter noted that total assets were \$532,941 which marks the first time the conference has broken the half million dollar mark.

Q: What land is currently held by the FLTC?

A: 3 small pieces of property are owned by the conference. They have been donated over the years. One will have a lean to built on it. This will be on the Bristol Hills Branch Trail.

Q: Are there any stipulations placed on memorial funds we have?

A: The Endowment Fund and the Sidote Stewardship Fund have board placed restrictions and the smaller memorial funds have donor restrictions placed on their funds.

*Jarrett Lobb asked that Peter mention most assets have been invested under the direction of Karpus Investment Management this year. Because this was a transition year where we were transferring these assets to Karpus, Jarrett feels that the slightly less than hoped for results were reasonable. Of the 60% of the assets invested in equities, the firm has recommended that we shift some of them into international funds this year as they expect that sector to perform better.

Report on Board activity—President, Pat Monahan

*To build:

The Crystal Hills Trail has 40 of its potential 45 miles on the ground.

*To maintain:

There are 5 Alley Cat projects occurring this year.

*To enhance:

There will be 2 new shelters built on the trail this year.

*To Promote: (newly included this year in the mission statement)

There was a new brochure just printed (50000 copies)

We have formed a partnership with the Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance this year

We have launched our new website and are almost ready to launch the store portion of that site.

*Forever:

We will go through another period of transition shortly as Gene Bavis plans to leave the position of Executive Director in 2012. We created the new position of Office Manager and rewrote the responsibilities expected of our ED for the future so that he/she will not have to spend as much time physically at the office.

Report of FLTC Activities and Accomplishments – Executive Director, Gene Bavis

*There are 1384 members of the FLTC which represents a 1% increase over the 2009 membership. Our annual goal is a 5% increase and we will try to achieve that in 2011 which means raising the number to 1453. The smaller increase probably had to do with the sluggish economy in general.

*The 2010 Passport to hiking project was well received. 13 thousand booklets were distributed for the Central project. The East and West Passport projects are well into the planning phase. Each will contain 10-12 hikes. There is a 3 part patch that will be awarded to anyone completing all 3 Passports.

*There is a new FLTC brochure currently being distributed. This includes the Crystal Hills Trail and the updated dues structure.

*The conference ended the 2010 fiscal year in the black. We exceeded our income expectations and came in under our expense projections.

*There are now 44 Forever Society members with one joining this morning.

*2010 saw its Spring conference and membership meeting held at Alfred University and its Fall Campout held at Hickory Hills Campground near Bath.

*The Annual Named Hike Series went off without a hitch. There was a winter Howard Beye hike that was a success in its inaugural year.

*The 2011 Fall Campout will be held at Chenango Valley State Park and will be hosted by the Bullthistle Club base out of the Norwich area.

*The 50th anniversary celebration is coming up and next year's Spring Conference and membership meeting will be held at Keuka College from June 15-17. This was the home of the first ever annual meeting.

*The new trail management team configuration is going nicely. There have been over 25,000 hours of volunteer trail work reported during 2010.

*There have been many new trail easements recorded this year. This helps protect the trail Forever.

*This year saw the naming of the Crystal Hills Branch Trail along with many new miles of trail put on the ground.

*The FLT News is still flourishing under the direction of Jo Taylor.

*Our new website is up and running with the FLT store coming online soon.

*We lost our last remaining charter member on May 8, 2011. Ralph Baker was a member for all 49 years of the conference's existence.

Q&A:

Q: Do membership renewal rates hold up from year to year?

A: Typically we might gain 200 new members and lose 125-150 of them the next year.

Q: Rick Roberts asked if the Catskill Mountain Club could have a link to their website put on the FLT website

A: This will be looked into.

Pat Monahan thanked the membership for their monetary and volunteer service throughout the year.

Tim Wilber motioned that the meeting be adjourned at 3:45, Sigi seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTED

Meeting Agenda

Minutes from May 22, 2010 Annual Membership Meeting

Finance/Investment Report